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### Notes on the Pharmacopeia.

*The Heroic and Divine in Greece.*

#### ARTICLE IV.

It would seem, from what has been said of the Hebrews, Egyptians, and Hindoos, that much intellectual development at a very early period of a nation's existence, is not necessarily in itself a cause of its future advancement. Succeeding ages find enough already done for the great purposes of social life, and view as an inheritance the institutions of their fathers, and labor to transmit an unencumbered patrimony to their children. It would almost seem necessary to great future intellectual growth, that it should not commence till particular circumstances, a gradual civilization, bring it into life.

The medicine of ancient Greece resembles that of all other civilized nations. It should not, however, on this account be passed in silence. In the earliest records of Greece we look for character rather than attainment, and seek with deep interest for features which should, in the revolutions of time, be impressed on the most valuable and valued relics of antiquity.

The Pelasgi, originally from the coasts of Ionia, were the first Greeks who abandoned a rude and wandering life, at the epoch in which the children of Jacob journeyed into Egypt. They clothed themselves with skins, they cultivated the *Quercus Esculus*, the fruit of which was for a long time their sole sustenance. Other colonies afterwards imitated their example. They deserted Asia Minor, and even Phœnicia and Egypt, in order to establish themselves in Greece. They drove hence the ancient inhabitants, and introduced with themselves the arts which contribute to the happiness and grace of life, manners more mild, and the religions generally disseminated in the regions they had left. The chiefs of these strangers distinguished themselves by their bravery, but

especially by their wisdom and superior knowledge. It was this which made them to be regarded as the ambassadors and favorites of the gods, and to their inspiration were attributed all the efforts they made to promote the happiness and improvement of society. These children of the gods transmitted their titles and knowledge to their children. Families were thus long known by the name of some remote ancestor. It is highly probable that this was the case in the instances of Hercules and the divine Homer, and that Hippocrates was nothing more in the historical periods of Greece than the common name of the family of the Asclepiadæ.

The first circumstance that interests us in the medicine of Greece, is, that it was a divine art. Apollo, the son of the sun, was the principal medical divinity of the nation. His sister Diana, and Ilithyia, the daughter of Juno, have found a perpetual memorial of their medical skill in a multitude of ancient writers. The controversies of the learned on the subject of medical mythology, are in a measure to be resolved into a misconception of the ancient use of allegory and fable. Poetry was the very language of the age. It was sometimes employed as a vehicle for elaborate research, and at others it unfolded the mysteries of heaven and earth. The fervor of the imagination supplied it with agents and events; and in the power of the fable and of the language, dwelt the influence of the poet as well as his fame. The allegory was an exhaustless source of materials for poetry, and the ancients not only invented but liberally employed it both in prose and verse. It does not appear, however, that in the earliest age of Greece, the allegory was known, much less applied to philosophy. Not a little error, therefore, but much confusion, has resulted from an attempt to give a philosophical interpretation of what was never intended to convey one. The fables of Homer, which are read with so much interest, have no further signification than that which should be attached to the words themselves. It was in after-times, while the fable still retained all the freshness and attrac-

tions of its youth, that the sciences of mind and of nature began to appear. Philosophy yielded to the spirit of the age. It was constrained to preserve the ancient fable, and rendered its doctrines more fascinating by the dress in which they appeared.

The medicine of ancient Greece was heroic as well as divine. This is a new feature in the medical character of the Grecians. But the art of war was with them a national art. A military spirit was diffused through all their institutions, and entered intimately into their national character. The union of the art of healing with that which necessarily made occasions for medical skill, in the same individual, grew directly out of the other institutions of Greece. Its priesthood monopolized religion and learning of every kind. It has been shown that they were the sole physicians. The art of cure was taught to none by them, and their duties in the temples confined their medical practice within defined limits. It was necessary that the hero should be the physician of his soldiers, and when we consider how little skill was required by the times, we can find no order so well fitted to practice the art as the heads of the army. We are to recollect, too, that veneration entered largely into the confidence which was reposed in the physician. He was regarded as of a superior order, or as one intrusted by Heaven with the welfare of his countrymen. The hero was of all men, next to the priest, the being who exercised the widest influence; and if he led an army to victory, the conquest of disease seemed but a slight task. Finally, if we again advert to the simplicity of the practice of the times, that it consisted principally in the use of the most obvious and nearest means, we can conceive of no order in an army that would employ them so well as those whose superior powers of mind had raised them to the command.

The erection of statues and temples was partly designed to preserve the remembrance of benefits conferred by heroes on mankind. Great moral excellence, and in fact, all individual distinction, were calculated, in the times we speak of, not only to call forth veneration, but even to lead to a belief that a more than human power, a peculiar spirit, dwelt in the hero or the sage, and deeply influenced his character and his deeds. The temple erected to him, and which contained his statue, with all that an enthusiastic age could consecrate to him, was not merely considered as an expression of national gratitude, but was also felt to

be the abode of his spirit. Thus the good that had been done, might again be hoped for, and if disease had been relieved while the hero lived, it might still yield to the healing atmosphere of the temple where the god was supposed to dwell.

The temple of Epidaurus, erected to Esculapius, attained to the highest dignity, and received the appellation of *sacred place*. The most salubrious spots were chosen for the worship of the god of health. Of these were Cyllene, the most smiling and fertile country of the Peloponnesus; and Epidaurus, bordering on the sea, and surrounded by hills crowned with woods. They constructed these edifices in sacred groves which obstructed unwholesome breezes; and the exhalations from the trees and shrubs were thought to purify the air. If near to cities, the most remote and elevated suburbs were selected; and if fruits were wanting, gardens were made to surround the temples. Thus the temple of Ias was seen resting on a mountain in Laconia, and at a little distance flowed the pure and salutary waters of the Liburnus. The temple of Cos was in the suburbs of the city; and that of Megalopolis was placed on a vast plain, surrounded by hills. At Corinth, a spring of salt and boiling water springs from a rock, and bathes the walls of the temple of the god of health. No profane person, or rather no one who had not been purified, dared to approach these temples, and no buildings could be erected within their boundaries.

These recollections of men, of customs, and of feelings of the remotest ages, interest us, because they bring with them new views of human nature. The medicine of antiquity was religion. Religion in that age was every thing. It was philosophy, history, the universal science. It was truly medicine. We have brought into view some of the elements of ancient Grecian character, and pointed out some of those original features, which were not to be lost in its after history. The press of foreign colonies to Greece was the transplanting of old opinions, maxims, tastes, and manners, to a new and congenial soil. In the mixture of new and various spirits, we find the materials of a new character, and as all were bred and original, and favored by situation, we should have inferred the history of Greece, if a faithful history had not recorded it. The age we have been contemplating was an heroic age. Poetry, and mythology, and medicine, nay, all the sciences, were blended in one mind. The mind



was all motion and activity. Emotions were strong, impressions deep. Every passion was ardent to excess. Friendship was never more exalted, hatred more deep. The whole age was peculiar. Its original elements were the rudest among the rude. It became intimately and suddenly blended with contemporaries of the highest order.

## Materia Medica.

### ATROPA BELLADONNA.

(BELLADONNA. *Deadly Nightshade.*)

Calyx campanulate, persistent, in five pointed divisions: corolla campanulate, five-lobed, longer than the calyx: five stamens included in awl-shaped threads, carrying round, heart-shaped anthers. The fruit is fleshy, rounded, a little depressed, in two cells, containing a great number of small, reniform seeds.

Belladonna has a perennial root, thick and fleshy, an erect stem, two to three feet in height, dichotomous, cylindrical, villous; leaves alternate, sometimes doubled, petioles short, oval-pointed, almost entire. The fruit is a roundish berry, at first green, then red, and finally nearly black; it is surrounded at the base by the calyx. The belladonna is a native of Europe, though it grows vigorously under cultivation in this country.

It contains, according to Brandes, malate of atropia, 1.51; gum, 8.33; starch, 1.25; chlorophylle, 5.84; ligneous matter, 13.7; osmazome, salts, &c.

Belladonna has been often employed internally, in the treatment of neuralgia. This means is particularly successful in the neuralgias of the face, when the diseased nerve is deeply seated. The applications of the extract of belladonna to the skin, by coating the epidermis, have an incontestable efficacy when the affected nerve is situated superficially. The good effects of the endermic method have been tested when the nerve is deeply seated, as in case of sciatica. It has been employed with success in the endermic nervous colics of hot countries.

The preparations of belladonna, whether administered internally, or externally applied, succeed very often in calming and soothing pain without exerting somniferous properties, as has been pretended. They have been especially employed in combating spasmodic contractions of many organs, as the anus, ureters, and neck of the uterus. It is employed often for dilating the eye in many species of ophthalmia; sometimes by applying, with friction, the extract to the eyelids and eyebrows, and sometimes by dropping into the diseased eye a little of the juice of the plant, or of the softened extract. This means has been employed by many surgeons, not only before the operation for the cataract, but even after the operation has been performed, to prevent inflammation of the iris, so common and so fatal in this operation. Bel-

ladonna has been successfully employed in incontinence of urine and spermatorrhea. It is considered a powerful remedy in these affections.

It has been employed against cancers, ileus, epilepsy, tetanus, insanity, &c., as also as frequently in cases of hooping-cough. Some German physicians have attributed to belladonna the remarkable property of being prophylactic of scarlatina, which assertion has been confirmed by numerous instances. M. Guersant had recourse to this practice whenever he was called to a family, where one of its members was affected with scarlatina. He has often remarked, that so often as his patients took belladonna the malady did not appear, and that when the administration of this agent ceased, some days after scarlatina developed itself, but then it was very light. This malady is so dangerous when it is epidemic, that no means should be rejected which presents itself to prevent it, even though its efficacy be not yet perfectly demonstrated. The alcoholic tincture has been administered, in such cases, in doses of two drops in a potion to be taken during the day, for a child from one to three years of age; from three to six years, three drops—increasing one drop of the tincture for each year additional.

Belladonna has been given with great success in incontinence of the urine, so frequent in children and youth, and unfortunately so stubborn, as every one knows. Two remarkable cases in the practice of Blache are on record. A young woman of eighteen years and a young man of fifteen years owed their cure to this remedy, after having in vain tried the best means made use of in similar cases. Sulphurous baths, sea-bathing, refrigerating, and astringent applications; tonics and ferruginous preparations internally; tannin, ergot, nux vomica, all had failed, and this notwithstanding that the most available precautions were employed with an unceasing perseverance. After six months their health was restored, but the use of the remedy in each case was continued.

The efficacy of the medicine in the treatment of this affection depends upon its being continued for a length of time, and being increased at intervals more or less distant.

A dangerous narcotic; every part of the plant is poisonous and children and the ignorant have often suffered from eating the berries, the beautiful appearance and sweet taste of which render them very alluring. The symptoms which they induce are those of intoxication, accompanied with fits of laughter and violent gestures, great thirst, difficulty of deglutition, nausea, dilatation of the pupil, with the eyelids drawn down, redness and tumefaction of the face, stupor or delirium, a low and feeble pulse, paralysis of the intestines, convulsions, and death. In medicine, belladonna is not only narcotic, but diaphoretic and diuretic. (L.)

Belladonna has been employed with success as an anodyne in neuralgia, tic-douloureux, arthritic pains, painful ulcers, and glandular enlargements—also as an antispasmodic, resolvent, and discutient; has been found beneficial in epilepsy, mania, hysteria, chorea, and other maladies of the cerebro-spinal system. (Pereira.)

It has been highly recommended in hooping-

cough, in the advanced stages of which it is undoubtedly sometimes beneficial. In neuralgia it is one of the most effectual remedies in our possession, and it may be employed to give relief in other painful affections. Hufeland recommends it in the convulsions dependent on serofulous irritation. It has been prescribed in nervous colic, chorea, epilepsy, hydrophobia, tetanus, mania, paralysis, delirium tremens, amaurosis, incontinence of urine, rheumatism, gout, dysmenorrhœa, obstinate intermittents, scarlatina, dropsy, and jaundice. It is said to have been effectually employed in several cases of strangulated hernia. (Wood.) The extract, rubbed upon the areola of the breast, has been found quickly to arrest the secretion of milk, and, upon the abdomen, to relieve the vomiting of pregnancy, and other irritations sympathetic with the gravid uterus.

M. Popper asserts, that small doses of the tincture of belladonna, frequently administered, will cure quinsy, if it be not complicated with syphilis, often in the short space of twenty-four hours. He says he rests this assertion on an experience of more than five hundred cases.

*Employment of Belladonna for arresting the Secretion of Milk.*—An article which appeared originally, we believe, in the *Lancet*, on the local employment of belladonna for the purpose of arresting the secretion of the mammary gland, with two successful cases, has been extensively copied by the journals of Europe and this country. We have, however, met with no new examples of success with this method until the publication of the last number of the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, which contains a short account of a case reported by Dr. George McC. Miller, of Brandywine Village, Del., who applied a solution of the extract of belladonna, of the strength of ten grains to half an ounce of water, to the areola of each mamma, three times daily, in the case of a woman whose child was born dead at the eighth month. "On the third day the breasts swelled moderately, and became somewhat painful and tender, and a little milk oozed from the nipples. But under the use of the belladonna the secretion disappeared, and in less than a week the solution was discontinued, the mammae having reacquired their normal size and aspect." We shall be glad to learn that further trials confirm the results obtained by Dr. Miller, but we cannot regard his case as proving in the least the efficacy of the application in producing the result. In fact, there is every reason to believe that had nothing whatever been done, the mammary secretion would have appeared but scantily, and have ceased in a few days spontaneously, as we see so often in similar cases, where the breasts are let alone, and not stimulated to secrete by the common practice of drawing them artificially. We tried the belladonna carefully in a case where the patient was for a long time annoyed by a profuse secretion of milk, after weaning her child, but it completely failed. We should be glad if our readers would take the opportunity of trying the remedy, and would acquaint us with the result.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

*On the use of Belladonna in arresting the Secretion*

*of Milk*, by J. H. CONNALLY, M.D.—Allow me, through the columns of your journal, to relate the following case illustrative of the effect of belladonna, in arresting the secretion of milk. I noticed in one of the back numbers of the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, where two cases had been treated successfully with that medicine.

When first it met my eye, I did not think much upon the subject; but since then I have had occasion to try the remedy in the following case: I was called, a few days since, to a servant of Mrs. —, who had been delivered of twins some days previous to that time. The "little ones" lived only a few moments after birth. On examination of the mother, I found the breasts very much enlarged, knotty, and quite tender; pulse full and bounding; stomach nauseated, with considerable headache. I gave her some medicine to tranquillize the action of the heart, and then applied the breast-pump; but it was so very painful, and the lactiferous ducts were so completely obstructed with what the patient termed "curdled milk," that I was compelled to abandon it. I then ordered v. grains of belladonna to be dissolved in 3i of warm water, and applied to the areola. This was done twice during the night, with considerable relief to the patient.

On my visit, the next evening, I found that the tumefaction, with all unpleasant symptoms, had entirely disappeared, and the patient declared herself quite well. I did not perceive any ill effects from the use of this medicine. The lochia flowed regularly on, and ceased at the regular time, with subsidence of all unhealthy action. If this proves as effectual in the future, as it has in some few cases that have been related, it is, certainly, a great discovery, and worthy the notice of every physician.—*Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal*.

*The Wonderful Effects of Belladonna in the Third Stage of Pneumonia.*—On the 2d October, 1852, towards noon, M. X., a monk at Berguac, 25 years of age, pale, dark complexion, of a lymphatic sanguine temperament—of strong constitution, enjoying general good health, was imprudent enough, after inordinate exertions in the duties of his profession, to take, at a single draught, a large glass of iced water. During the night he was taken with a chill—called at six o'clock on the evening of the 3d to see him—found the following symptoms: anxiety, severe headache, eyes injected, white tongue, mouth open, intense thirst, nausea, sleeplessness, urine scant with sediment, burning dry skin, full, frequent pulse (115), dyspnoea, painful persistent cough, tearing expectoration of viscid mucous, mixed with air and red blood—severe pain in the right lung, chiefly under the nipple—dullness over the inferior two-thirds of the lung of that side, with loud pneumonic crepitation. In spite of very low diet, appropriate drinks, rest, four free bleedings from the arm (all more or less cupped), within the space of thirty-six hours from my first visit, in spite of several large doses of tartar-emetic and ipecacuanha, two leechings, one to the painful part, the other around the inside of the ankles; in spite of blisters on the breast, and on the



legs, synapsism, emollient clysters, etc., the disease continued to progress.

At 10 o'clock, on the evening of the 9th, the local and general symptoms had continued to increase in number and gravity, until it was obvious that red hepatization of the lungs had taken place; face pale and anxious; extreme debility; lying all the time on the back; delirium—subsultus tendinum, vague expression, stupor, dry tongue; insatiable thirst for cold water; dry skin; eyes partly open; the eyeballs turned up; the pupils dilated; the retina slightly sensible to strong light; passing urine involuntarily; pulse low, interrupted, and diaphragmatic; respiration hard; cough scant, and difficult expectoration, sputa thick and discolored; dulness increased and extended; respiratory murmur, well over the seat of the disease; rales and other bronchial sounds; cold extremities; tendency to sinking towards the foot of the bed.

Under the above circumstances, with no reasonable hope of evading an unhappy termination by ordinary means, we prescribed 15 centigrammes of the aqueous extract of belladonna, mixed ten grammes of "sirop de capillaire," taken at one time.

At the end of an hour and a half the effect of the belladonna was obvious—the patient slept tranquilly and quietly. In a few minutes his temperature augmented, face became animated, warm, vapory, and abundant perspiration covered the body; the pulse rose, became stronger and less frequent; respiration was relieved; the symptoms all became more favorable. After two consecutive hours of repose, the patient awoke free from delirium, and feeling much better.

At 10 o'clock in the morning, the pneumonia, which had to a certain degree reassumed the characteristics of the first stage, was in a fair way to terminate by resolution.

Convalescence continued up to the 16th of November, when it was complete.—DE LA RUE.  
—Translated from the "*Revue de Therapeutique Médico Chirurgicale*."

**Mammary Abscess—Belladonna.**—By T. B. Billings, M. D.—Having recently had a case of this disease, and the manner in which it was treated resulting so favorable, I am induced to offer it for publication. It is one of those diseases which is not unfrequently attended with serious results, and any suggestion in regard to its treatment may be gladly received by the profession. I shall offer nothing new in regard to its medication at the present time, but simply corroborate the truth of a method already known, so far as the following case will do it.

On the morning of the 24th of February last I was called to visit Mrs. D., who was suffering to all appearance from a mammary abscess which must have terminated in suppuration had there not have been more than ordinary means resorted to.

She had recently been confined with her second child, which she was weaning on account of her ill health. Upon examination, I found the right mammary gland enormously swollen, hard, knotty, throbbing, and so painful as to render the most gentle means for removing the

milk unbearable. There was much fever, a quick hard pulse, with great depression and anxiety of the mind.

I ordered an application of the ext. of belladonna spread upon a linen cloth in the form of a plaster, to be immediately applied, leaving a small aperture in the centre for the nipple to pass through, which was afterwards to be covered with a poultice.

After administering a cathartic to move the bowels, which were very costive, and the tinct. of veratrum viride to be taken until the pulse was brought to its natural standard, I left my patient until the following day, when I found her improving beyond all expectation. The tenderness and pain was greatly removed, besides much diminution in the size of the gland and its hardness. The veins, which had been engorged and obstructed in their passages, presented a much more natural appearance. There was but little febrile excitement, and a very marked expression in the countenance of rapid improvement.

I applied the breast-pump, and what remaining milk there was which had not flowed into the poultice was removed.

The local application *only* was continued, when on the third day the breast had assumed its natural appearance, and she was perfectly well of the local difficulty.

David reports two cases in which the internal use of belladonna led to the reduction of strangulated hernia, which seemed to demand an operation. He gave half a grain of the extract every half hour. In one case three, and in the other four doses were taken.

"In the twenty cases of whooping-cough cured by the use of belladonna, the cough and hoop returned in a few cases on exposure to cold, or in disagreeable, windy weather; but, by combining the extract with syrup of ipecac, a few drops soon cured the cough and hoop; in only one case out of this number was it complicated with inflammation of the lungs, and this case recovered." "The average duration of my twenty cases was ten days after the hoop had commenced, when the case was free from complications, which shows the great advantage of this treatment. The ordinary duration of the disease when treated in the usual manner, is from one and a half to three and a half months; even by prussic acid or the application of nitrate of silver, the average is given from two to three weeks." (Dr. L. Turnbull.)

In the British Medical Journal, a case is reported of incontinence of urine in a child eight years of age, which had existed since its birth. She had been treated with purgatives, alkalies, blisters to sacrum, &c., without improvement. She was finally relieved by the use of one eighth of a grain of ext. belladonna night and morning.

When epilepsy is not curable, it is of great importance to diminish the number of fits, which become multiplied by habit, and render the disease less and less amenable to treatment. For this purpose, M. Fredericq has advantageously used belladonna, and he gives it in the following doses to several young epileptics at the Hospital of Courtruy, reported incurable:

Ex. belladonna, gr. iii. ; water, 6 ounces. A tablespoonful three times a day, and when premonitory symptoms are perceived.

In the Gazette Hebdomaire, there is reported a case of inguinal hernia, which was relieved after taxis had failed, by the administration of the ext. belladonna, in three or four grain doses every half hour. The tinct. belladonna was also employed locally by means of a flaxseed poultice.

In the same journal there is also a report of a case in which belladonna was administered with very great relief to the patient. In this there was no protrusion of the bowel, but from the symptoms, obstinate constipation, great pain, stercoraceous vomiting, &c., it was evident that there was complete occlusion of the bowel. The belladonna in this case was employed after an operation for artificial anus had been decided upon. The remedy was used in the form of an ointment by friction, and as soon as complete intoxication was induced its good effect was perceptible.

### SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS.

(Bloodroot. Red Puccoon.)

Nat. Order, Papaveraceæ. (Poppy Family.)

The bloodroot is an herbaceous perennial plant, growing abundantly throughout the United States, and flowering early in the spring. After the fall of the flower, the leaves continue their growth, and by the middle of summer they become so large as to give the plant an entirely different aspect. With the exception of the seeds, all parts of the plant are active, but the root only is official.

The root is narcotic, emetic, and purgative in large doses; stimulant, diaphoretic, expectorant, and tonic, in small. Dr. King gives it as expectorant, sudorific, alterative, emmenagogue, tonic, antiseptic, detergent, escharotic, and emrhine, according to the mode in which it is employed. In over-doses it excites violent vomiting, a burning sensation in the stomach, tormenting thirst, faintness, vertigo, dimness of vision, alarming prostration, and even death.

Bloodroot is employed in catarrh, typhoid pneumonia, croup, whooping-cough, in arresting the progress of phthisis, and also in inflammatory rheumatism and jaundice.

Dr. Allen says, it acts with all the good effects of digitalis, in affections of the lungs, and it is powerfully promotive of diaphoresis in inflammatory rheumatism.

Bigelow mentions it as an acrid narcotic in small doses, lessening the frequency of the pulse, somewhat analogous in its operation to digitalis,—this, however, being its secondary effect.

Dr. McBride gave it, with success, in hydrothorax, in doses of sixty drops of the tincture, three times a day, until nausea followed its employment.

Dr. Branch, of S. C., has employed the decoction in croup, and prefers it to any other single remedy; and, by persisting in it till emesis is produced, he is of opinion that it prevents the formation of the diphtheritic membrane. From his own experience, he considers it a specific in the early stages of the disease, preferring, for

infants, the infusion to the tincture, as the difficulty of exciting vomiting renders it necessary to give more of the alcohol than would be prudent. He is of opinion that it owes its value to three qualities combined—an acrid, an emetic, and a deobstruent property, the latter acting on the glandular system. It possesses, also, the peculiar advantage of not producing bad effects by accumulation; a teaspoonful not debilitating any more than a smaller quantity, and neither inducing prostration, which, in the disease in question, is an important consideration. If the patient's skin is hot and dry, the addition of a few grains of ipecacuanha is advised. In emetic doses, it proves a useful promoter of expectoration in pneumonia.

Dr. Mothershead, of Indianapolis, speaks in the strongest terms of its efficacy as an excitant to the liver, when given in alterative doses.

**SANGUINARIA**.—*The Alkaloid principle of Bloodroot*.—Possesses properties the same as the root whence it is derived.

**SANGUINARIN**.—*The Resinoid principle of Bloodroot*.—It possesses properties similar to bloodroot and acts as an alterative, tonic, and hepatic. It may be employed with advantage in the treatment of pulmonary diseases, whooping-cough, influenza, rheumatism, jaundice, &c. In combination with leptandrin and podophyllin, it forms a medicine, which for safety and efficacy in the treatment of hepatic diseases, is superior to any other remedies yet known in medicine. It may also be used as a sternutatory, and as a local application to indolent ulcers.

Dr. Chas. A. Lee says: "It possesses all the active properties of the root, without the acridity and harshness that characterize the crude drug. It acts very beneficially in chronic bronchial and hepatic affections, in doses of half a grain to two grains."

Dr. A. S. Campbell, of Mount Nebo, Miss., says: "In my hands it has proven a valuable remedy; in proper combinations, it has but few superiors in hepatic and glandular diseases; its best effect is had in rheumatism and jaundice. It forms an excellent combination in hepatic diseases with podophyllin, leptandrin, and hydrastin."

### CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA.

(Black Cohosh. Black Snakeroot.)

The *Cimicifuga* is so named from *cimex*, a bug, and *fugo*, to drive away, the Siberian species being used as a bugbane. It is botanically classed in the natural order, *Ranunculaceæ*, and with the *Polyandria Pentagynia* of the sexual system. Its scientific and common names have varied, and still are so variously used among authors, as to require caution in studying the plant. They are mainly as follows: *Cimicifuga Racemosa*, *Actæa Racemosa*, *Actæa Cimicifuga*, *Macrotys Racemosa*, *Botrophis Serpentaria* (?), *Serpentaria Nigra*, *Black Snakeroot*, *Richweed*, *Cohosh*, *Black Cohosh*, *Squaw Root*, *Rattleweed*, *Cohort*, *Bugbane*.

**FRENCH SYNONYMS**.—*Actée*, *Herbe Saint Christophe*.

**GERMAN SYNONYMS**.—*Fraubenförmiges Christophskraut*, *Schwaze Klapperschlange wurzel*.



The *cimicifuga* is a tall, stately plant, having a perennial root, and a simple herbaceous stem, rising, from a thick knotted root-stock, to the height of from three to eight feet. The leaves are few, bi-tripinnately divided, alternate, the leaflets cut-serrate. The flowers are white, in elongated, wand-like racemes; sepals 4-5 falling off soon after the flower expands; petals, or rather transformed stamens, 1-8, small, on claws, two-horned at the apex. Stamens numerous, with slender white filaments; pistils 1-8, forming dry, dehiscent pods in fruit; pods ovoid, sessile, the racemes in fruit becoming one to two feet long.

*Cimicifuga* exerts a tonic influence over both the serous and mucous tissues of the system, and will be found a superior remedy in the majority of chronic diseases. In all cases where acidity of stomach is present, this must first be removed, or some mild alkaline preparation be administered in conjunction with the remedy, before any beneficial change will ensue.

It possesses an undoubted influence over the nervous system, and has been successfully used in chorea, periodical convulsions, epilepsy, nervous excitability, asthma, pertussis, delirium tremens, and many spasmodic affections. Its tonic and anti-periodic virtues are well marked in remittent and intermittent fevers, and it has been found very useful in other febrile and exanthematous diseases, especially among children, when there exists a strong tendency to cerebral difficulty. It uniformly lessens the force and frequency of the pulse, soothes pain, allays irritability, and lessens the disposition to cerebral irritation and congestion. In febrile diseases especially, it frequently produces diaphoresis and diuresis.

In doses of one dram of the tincture, repeated every hour, it has effected thorough cures of ophthalmitis conjunctiva without the aid of any local application. As a partus accelerator, it may be substituted for ergot, seldom failing to bring on speedily and powerfully the expulsive action of the uterus. After labor it will be found effectual in allaying the general excitement of the nervous system and relieving after-pains.

In large doses it produces vertigo, impaired vision, nausea, vomiting, and a reduction of the circulation, but no alarming narcotic effects. Green tea is said to counteract its narcotic influences.

It is used in the debility of females attendant upon uterine disorder, and, in its action, is thought to have an especial affinity for that organ. Dr. Hildreth has found this plant, in combination with iodine, very advantageous in the early stages of phthisis. Barton employed it as an astringent, which property it owes to the gallic acid it contains. He gave it in putrid sore throat.

According to Mr. Tilghman, it contains gum, starch, sugar, resin, wax, tannin, gallic acid, salts of potassa, lime, iron, magnesia, &c.

Many encoriums have been passed upon the *cimicifuga* as a remedy in chorea. Several cases of this disease, reported by Dr. Jesse Young to have been cured, were published some years ago. Dr. Wood states that he administered it

in a case of chorea, which rapidly recovered under its use, after the failure of purgatives and metallic tonics. He also remarks that he had derived the happiest effects from it in a case of convulsions, occurring periodically, and connected with uterine disorder. Dr. Kirkbridge always purges before he uses it; and general frictions with salt or the flesh-brush, and punction with croton oil over the spine, he believes to be of much value in chronic cases.

Dr. Johnson found the most acute and severe cases of rheumatism yield to its influence, not only more speedily, but more perfectly, and with less danger of metastasis to other organs, than to any other form of treatment.

Dr. E. G. Wheeler affirms that he has found it useful in several cases of severe and protracted cough, especially in the chronic cough or bronchitis of old people.

In the *Western Lancet* are reported half a dozen cases of neuralgia, successfully treated by the tincture of *cimicifuga*. The writer of the article says: "To secure the prompt therapeutic action of the *cimicifuga*, it would appear important to relieve the alimentary canal of saburral secretions, and, so far as possible, remove all irregularities of the circulating fluid. I do not know that its action tends in any manner to increase febrile reaction when present, nor to produce local determination to any particular organ; but, on the contrary, I am strongly inclined to believe, from my observations on the effects of this article, that it acts as a sedative to the heart's action. When excessive repletion or preternatural excitement of the heart and arteries is present, the constitutional action of the remedy was not manifested until these conditions were removed. Neither did it act in subverting the disease. When I am now called upon to treat an idiopathic nervous affection, I prepare the system for the use of cohosh, in the same manner as if I were going to administer quinine, to which I am strongly disposed to think it is related in its manner of action upon the nervous system. When the system is thus prepared, in idiopathic attacks of neuralgia, I place more reliance in the above-mentioned article than any other in the materia medica. It is the nervous element of disease upon which the *cimicifuga* achieves its most salutary effects, and will be successful in controlling morbid action going on in that system, in proportion as it is complicated."

Its powers in rheumatic affections, and in anasarca, are greatly increased by administering it in the following combination:

Tincture of <i>cimicifuga</i> .....	1 ounce.
Iodide of potassium.....	2 drams.
Syrup of ipecac.....	1 ounce.
Spring water.....	2 ounces.

Mix; give a teaspoonful three or four times a day.

In chronic bronchial disease, and in the early stage of phthisis, it has been proved to be an excellent and efficient remedy, when combined with an anodyne and the tincture of bloodroot.

Tincture of <i>cimicifuga</i> .....	1 ounce.
" " sanguinaria.....	1 "
Sulphate of morphia.....	2 grains.
Syrup of gum-arabic.....	2 ounces.

Mix ; give a teaspoonful when the cough is troublesome.

In the treatment of dropsy, the following is a preferred prescription, and has been employed much by an experienced practitioner in Massachusetts :

Tincture of cimicifuga.....1 ounce.

“ “ myrrh .....6 drams.

Laudanum .....1 dram.

Tincture of red pepper.....1 “

Mix ; take 30 or 40 drops three times a day.

**CIMICIFUGIN.**—*The Resinoid Principle of the Cimicifuga Racemosa.*—Tonic, alterative, nervine, antiperiodic, with an especial affinity for the uterus. It does not possess the narcotic properties of the root, which, however, are preserved in the dried hydro-alcoholic extract, or the ethereal extract. Used in intermittent fevers, periodic diseases, leucorrhœa, amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, amenorrhœa, sterility, rheumatism, serofula, and prolapsus uteri, not accompanied with an inflammatory condition of that organ or its ligatures. It has also been used in gleet, gonorrhœa, dyspepsia, while the tincture has been found an excellent application in chronic ophthalmia.

Prof. T. V. Morrow's use of this resinoid in cases similar to those which he successfully treated with the cimicifuga, justify him in the conclusion that it is a satisfactory substitute.

The cimicifugin is also a most valuable medicine, especially as an adjunct to other remedies, in all pulmonary, rheumatic, and dyspeptic symptoms, where there is a want of tone in the nervous system.

### COLCHICUM AUTUMNALE.

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D., N. LEBANON SPRINGS, N. Y.

Few, indeed, are the medicinal agents, that are of more importance to the physician in the daily practice of his profession than colchicum.

The history of our most valuable medicines is replete with glaring absurdities and contradictions. They have been regarded at certain periods as incomparable blessings to the human family : at no distant epoch you will find all confidence lost in their employment, and regarded not only as worthless and uncertain, but even as prejudicial in the very diseases for which they had the reputation of specifics. Among the numerous medical agents that at times have been lauded to the skies, and again trodden under foot as worse than useless ; that have gained an imperishable notoriety in successfully combating with disease amid conflicting testimony of friends and foes, colchicum occupies a conspicuous position. I have used it more or less freely during twenty years in the treatment of diseases, such as rheumatism, acute as well as chronic ; gout, neuralgia, chorea, morbid conditions of the kidneys, torpid liver, constipation of the bowels, dropsy, and in some cutaneous affections, &c., and generally with the happiest results—never to my knowledge being in a single instance prejudicial to my patients. Colchicum is a valuable deobstruent, and for certain conditions of the system the most active diuretic. Perhaps physicians as often fail in the management of their medicines as in the selection of their agents. Some administer quite

too small doses, and witness but little or no result, and abandon the use of the medicine. Others give too large, and become alarmed and give up its use, and proclaim the article as dangerous. In rheumatic patients of plethoric habits, I begin with ten drops of tinct. of colchicum, repeated every four hours, until I get foaming or frothy dejections from the bowels ; increasing or diminishing the dose according to the susceptibility of the patient. For constipation I give eight drops every four hours, and continue its use a few days, adding or diminishing the dose as circumstances may indicate. Dr. Robert Dick says : “ Colchicum acts decidedly on the liver, removing torpid states of that organ, and causing yellow or even dark stools to succeed gray or white ones.” In France, he says, “ it is ranked among diuretics.” He regards its use as highly beneficial in gout, rheumatism, neuralgia, and in certain diseases of the kidneys.

Dr. J. M. MacLagan, of Edinburgh, prescribes colchicum in dropsy, succeeding scarlatina. He says : “ At all events, when ascites or anasarca are present in Bright's disease as intercurrent affections, the use of colchicum, both as a cathartic and diuretic, seems to me to be indicated. In those cases where coma supervenes from accumulation of urea in the blood, he remarks : “ Colchicum will prove of eminent service.” He says the power which has been shown that colchicum possesses of replacing the urea in natural, and often superabundant amount in the urine seems to point it out as a useful remedy in dropsy succeeding scarlatina. He instances its use where the urine was totally suppressed, and symptoms of coma present, with complete success. He uses it successfully in acute rheumatism. He remarks that large doses are not requisite—twenty minims of the tincture or the wine may be given every six hours until some relief is obtained ; or a grain of the inspissated juice or of the acetic extract every four hours. Under this treatment, he remarks : “ The disease sometimes vanishes within three or four days, the medicine producing sickness and purging, and the rheumatism or rheumatic gout rapidly declining. Occasionally the same favorable events take place, although there has been no disturbance of the stomach or bowels.” Dr. MacLagan speaks of its utility in urticaria. He quotes cases where the uric acid contained in the urine of patients taking colchicum, was nearly doubled in the space of twelve days.

Dr. Elliotson gives the case of a man laboring under prurigo in its most inveterate form, to whom half-dram doses of wine of colchicum was administered thrice daily. This the patient took for three weeks, at the end of which time he was completely cured. He adds : “ Colchicum would thus seem to answer well in some cases of skin diseases, where the urine is of low specific gravity.”

Dr. Bennett, of Edinburgh, cites interesting cases of delirium and coma concomitant upon scarlatina treated with colchicum. He closes his communication with this remark : “ Colchicum seems to me worthy of more extensive trial,” &c.



Dr. Joseph Bell, physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, in the treatment of rheumatism, says: "When the urinary secretions are scanty, I prescribe colchicum."

George Fife, M. D., remarks: "Colchicum, of all the means internally employed for the cure of neuralgia, deserves the most confidence." He adds: "The advantages of this medicine in neuralgia seem, if possible, to be greater than those which it possesses in gout and rheumatism." He continues: "I can safely affirm that so far as my experience of colchicum extends, I regard all other means as secondary or auxiliary to it in the treatment of neuralgia, gout, or rheumatism." "In my practice," says he, "which now extends over a considerable period, and during which many cases of gout have been treated, I can call to mind no case in which the colchicum has been injurious, or followed by unpleasant effects; which may also be said of its exhibition in rheumatism." Dr. Chapman says, "that from ten drops of the radical tinct. of colchicum, repeated several times in the twenty-four hours, and persisted in for some time, as much may be anticipated, with a view merely to the restoration of the lost susceptibility of the bowels, as from any thing else within my experience; rarely, indeed, having seen it fail."

In relating my own experience with colchicum, I could do no better than to quote the experience of eminent physicians, with whom I most cheerfully accord. Scores of names might be added, did time and space permit, to show that colchicum is fast gaining confidence in the medical profession, and is no longer regarded of doubtful efficacy, or restricted to the treatment of rheumatism and gout.

New Lebanon Springs, N. Y.,  
August 10th, 1858. }

#### ARCTOSTAPHYLOS. UVA URSI.

(*Uva Ursi*.)

This plant has been classed as *Arbutus Uva Ursi*, and as *Mairania Uva Ursi*. The English names are *Trailing Arbutus*, *Bear's Whortleberry* or *Bearberry*, *Mountain-box*, *Redberry*, *Upland Cranberry*, *Foxberry*, *Checkerberry*, *Brawlings*.

The leaves, the only part made use of, are bitter and astringent. They are administered in disorders of the urinary passages, and are thought to be lithontriptic. The *uva ursi* is used in nephritic and calculous cases—of very doubtful action in the latter, but believed to be a decided palliative in nephritic complaints; also employed in dysuria, catarrhus vesicæ, leucorrhæa, and gonorrhæa: its action is slow, and it therefore requires to be given for a considerable period. Although its effects are uncertain, they sometimes give astonishing relief. (L. H. Pereira.)

*Uva ursi* is astringent and tonic, and is thought by some to have a specific direction to the urinary organs, for the complaints of which it is chiefly used. It alters the color of the urine, and its astringent principle has been detected in that secretion. It probably, therefore, exerts a direct influence on the kidneys and urinary passages. Though known to the

ancients, it had passed into almost entire neglect, till its use was revived by De Haen about the middle of the last century. In chronic nephritis it is a popular remedy, and is particularly recommended when there is reason to conjecture the existence of ulceration in the kidneys, bladder, or urinary passages. Diabetes, catarrh of the bladder, incontinence of urine, gleet, are among the diseases in which it has proved serviceable; and testimony is not wanting to its beneficial effects in phthisis pulmonalis. Dr. E. G. Harris, of Fayette, Alabama, believes it to have the property of promoting uterine contraction, and has employed it with supposed advantage as a substitute for ergot in tedious labors. (U. S. Dispensatory.)

As an astringent, it is applicable to all purposes for which astringents are used—as in chronic diarrhea and dysentery, diabetes and menorrhagia. In gonorrhæa, with bloody and mucous discharges, and pain in the vesical regions, it speedily allays all these unpleasant symptoms. (Amer. Eclect. Dispensatory.)

Mr. Harris, in the "Virginia Medical Journal," relates cases in which he has employed a strong decoction of *uva ursi* in accouchements, where the ergot of rye would ordinarily have been employed, and found its employment followed by vigorous pains, which soon caused the expulsion of foetus and placenta. Mr. H. prefers this medicine to ergot of rye, inasmuch as it does not cause such strong contractions as the latter, which are so very painful to the mother, and dangerous to the child. (See JUNE and JULY No. of the JOURNAL, 1858.)

#### HYDRANGÆA ARBORESCENS.

(*Hydrangæa*.)

This plant was introduced to the notice of the profession by Dr. Butler, of Burlington, N. J., as a remedy for the removal of calculi, or gravelly deposits in the bladder. It appears from its history to have been used by his father, Dr. E. Butler, among the Cherokee Indians, where Dr. B. resided as a missionary, and where sabulous and gravelly deposits are very frequently met with. Dr. B. says: "What I particularly wish to call attention to, is the fact that a remedy exists which has been successfully employed for removing calculi after they have been formed. The effect the remedy seemed capable of producing, is removing, by its own specific action, from the bladder such deposits as may be contained in that viscus, provided they are small enough to pass the urethra. It has seemed also to have the power of relieving the excruciating pain attendant on the passage of a calculus through the ureter. Whether this is dependent upon any anodyne property which the remedy may possess, or upon its action in removing the cause by promoting the discharge of the calculus, I know not, but think most likely on the latter. The power of curing stone in the bladder does not appear to be claimed for it. It is only while the deposits are small, when in that form of disease known as gravel, that it is an efficient remedy; then, by removing the nucleus, which, if allowed to remain in the organ, would increase in size, and form stone, the dis-

ease is averted. Employed at this stage of the disease, it has proved beneficial in nearly every instance, and as many as 120 calculi have been known to come from a person under its use. In an over-dose, it produces unpleasant symptoms—such as dizziness of the head, oppression of the chest, &c. The root appears to contain a large amount of mucilage, which serves as a valuable demulcent, and directly alleviates the excruciating pain which accompanies the passage of the calculi through the ureter, at the same time favoring the expulsive power of the bladder to free itself from foreign substances." The cases where it has been successfully used are too numerous to give here: we will publish them from time to time.

Dr. Monkur, of Baltimore, says: "I regard the hydrangea, in properly selected cases, as sure in its remediate agency as we may express of any other medical substance. In the hospital he directed its use in mucous irritation of the bladder in aged people, chronic gleet, and, in a very difficult condition to cure, the prostate mucous emissions; and the report was favorable to its use."

Parrish, in his Practical Pharmacy, says: "I have prepared fluid extract of hydrangea for several years, during which time I have dispensed it, under the direction of several practitioners, to numerous patients, and with general satisfactory results, in irritable conditions of the urethra, though its value as a specific remedy requires confirmation."

Dr. Butler, among a great number of cures, mentions that of a farmer of forty-five years of age, who had been suffering from calculi four or five years. The hydrangea relieved him of pain immediately, and he subsequently exhibited two of several calculi he had passed under its influence soon after he began its use. The largest of these weighed eleven grains, and was nearly half an inch long; he also passed a great deal of sand.

Dr. Atlee, of Philadelphia, publishes an account of a case in the hands of Dr. D. Horsley, where the patient passed a stone the size of an ordinary marble.

Dr. Bates, of New Lebanon Springs, has lately treated several cases of lithiasis with the hydrangea, and with the best success. In each case a number of calculi passed from the patients upon the use of this agent.

### CANELLA ALBA.

(*Canella*.)

Canella is a useful aromatic stimulant and tonic. Taken in small doses, it determines heat to the epigastrium, and augments the digestive forces; then, secondarily, it occasions constipation, and acts in a stimulating manner on the whole system, and particularly when it is administered in considerable quantities. This medicine is seldom employed alone, but, joined with other tonic and stimulating substances, is administered with advantage in cases of atony of the stomach, chronic diarrhea, and also in the last stages of adynamic and ataxic fevers.

The use of this medicine has been much boasted of in some cases of vomiting not dependent

on organic lesion of the stomach. It is a useful adjunct in atonic diarrheas. It is employed to mask the odor and taste of other medicines; and with this design, as also as a tonic, it enters into a great variety of compound preparations.

Berry, aromatic, used as a spice; bark, *white cinnamon*, *Canelle Cortex*, rolled, peeled, whitish, thicker than cinnamon, pungent, and sweet smelling; warm, stimulant, antiscorbutic, used also as a stimulatory. (G.) Bark yields by distillation a warm aromatic oil, reckoned carminative and stomachic. It is often mixed with the oil of cloves in the West Indies. In this country it is principally employed as an aromatic addition, either to tonics or purgatives, in debilitated conditions of the digestive organs. (Pereira.)

### CAPSICUM ANNUM.

(*Cayenne Pepper*.)

The active principles of capsicum are: 1st. A peculiar crystallizable principle, the true *capsicin*; 2d. An essential oil; which, besides wax, a peculiar gum, and a fixed oil, are obtained as residuary products.

Cayenne pepper is a powerful stimulant, producing, when swallowed, a sense of heat in the stomach, and a general glow over the body, without any narcotic effect. It is much employed as a condiment, and proves highly useful in correcting the flatulent tendency of certain vegetables, and aiding their digestion. As a medicine, it is useful in cases of enfeebled and languid stomach, and is occasionally prescribed in dyspepsia and atonic gout, particularly when attended with much flatulence, or occurring in persons of intemperate habits. It has been used with success, combined with quinine, in cases of intermittent fever, occasioned by the too frequent use of ardent spirits. Small doses have been recommended to be administered internally as a cure for piles.

Its most important application, however, is to the treatment of malignant sore-throat and scarlet fever, in which it is used both internally and as a gargle. It has been used in spasmodic affections, passive hemorrhages, especially uterine, and when combined with the compound powder of ipecacuanha, will, in many instances, arrest hemorrhage after parturition, promptly.

Says Dr. Price: "Now, it is positively demonstrated, in the every-day practice of every physician, and not questioned, that capsicum is the only reliable remedy in scarlet fever—that such is its peculiar action, it immediately relieves the inflamed surface; and such being the case, the rational deduction is, that it must have the same effect in relieving other parts of inflammation, or the same tissue—that is, in the stomach. And facts abundantly prove this. In the gastritis of yellow and bilious fevers, we have the most ample testimony of the surprising efficacy of capsicum, from both Allopathics and Eclectics; indeed, with the successful practitioner in the South, it is considered the *sine qua non*.

Now, in all cases of strictly gastritis, our experience, and the experience of medical re-



formers generally is, that pure unadulterated capsicum, given internally in decoction, and applied externally in the form of a plaster, as a part of the treatment, is invariably attended with relief and final cure. This treatment, in time, never has nor never can fail.

Capsicum is not an irritant—it is a diffusive stimulant, with peculiar elective tendency to the capillary system. This is proven by physical sensations on the surface and extremities, and by microscopical examination of inflamed surfaces under its action. You cannot produce an undue excitement of the pulse by its action.

#### ADULTERATIONS IN MEDICINES.

While it appeals to the common sense of every man, that it is the physician's interest to secure a pure article of drug in any and every case where he may be called upon to use it in his practice; it must also be kept as clearly in view, that he may be unconsciously abetting that which he is honestly endeavoring to put down, and this from a mere inattention to the true state of the case.

If that last be a probable hint, the question then comes up, what are the causes, remote or immediate, that lead to the so prevalent practice of adulterating and sophisticating drugs? Perhaps this might be answered on the instant, to the effect, that it is owing to nothing more or less than too much avarice or too rampant dishonesty on the part of dealers; or, to put the matter in a little different and more soothing form, the cause or causes may be a mere desire to check the rising quotations in prices, and no harm be, in reality, intended. Still, whatever may be thought of this, it may, with a show of pertinence, be asked, if the unreasonable demands of physicians for reduced prices for medicines, which they themselves dispense in addition to their consultations, so reaping a second profit, may not, in its turn, create a sort of necessity for regular dealers to make some shift to keep up the balance of their just profits. While buying, to sell again, seems to carry with it the idea of reduced rates to the buyer, still there is nothing in the nature of the case why physicians, buying drugs of retail druggists, should get them at such low prices and at such tremendous discounts as they often demand. For druggists are dependent upon the prescription business to a great extent, in that the profession of the druggists is involved in and consequent upon the profession of medicine proper, simply as an adjunct. The diagnosis of disease, and the adaptation of medicine to its cure, should then, as a matter of right, be practically distinct from the business of dispensing the medicines prescribed.

It is plain, then, that here lies a sufficient answer to the question above asked. The actual infringement upon the prescription business by physicians, and the, for the most part, unnecessary combination of the two professions, puts the retail dealer in drugs to the necessity of so modifying his business as to bring his legitimate profits to their true standard. This takes shape in two ways—by adulterating his officinal drugs, and by forcing him into the sale of patent medi-

cines. Theoretically, as well as in point of fact, it is an adulteration to live. Many of the fine chemicals and expensive medicinal preparations involve in their manufacture not only a great amount of time, large outlay in apparatus, but experience and skill, which has only been obtained by long and patient study. Now if these preparations are to be vended out for a mere nominal profit, it discourages scientific men in their efforts at exactness, and immediately diminishes the care taken in the pharmaceutical manipulation. The consequence is, that they are not to be depended on for strength or purity; and, as before, the deficiency of profit is made up by the sale of nostrums and patent medicines that yield a handsome profit to the seller.

It has time and again been asserted, that were it not for the sale of patent medicines, the retail drug trade could not be supported, and the reason points to that already given.

And, again, this rebounds upon the regular practitioner—for the dignity of the medical profession is insulted by the flood of nostrums that bears up against it, and there seems no available means to check its advance, except it is to strike at the source and keep the profession distinct. Let each act in its legitimate sphere, independent of each other, yet, indeed, playing into each other's hands: if this view of the subject be followed out in its particulars, it will amount well-nigh to a demonstration that the efficient cause of a great part of the adulteration of drugs lies in the fact, that the profession of medicine covers too wide a space when it embraces the domain of the dispenser of medicine itself. The retail drug business is a necessary one, and must live. Against its frauds the poor and rich alike have no protection, and the moral and physical health of the community is corrupted.

It is evident that there is no end to the adulterations. The list may be extended through nearly all the articles of food and drink and drugs, till we may well fear, that with every substance taken into our stomachs, we imbibe some dangerous poisons, and aid to sustain some villainous fraud. The honest efforts of every honest man should be exerted to their utmost in this direction, to the satisfaction of morals and the preservation of human life.

N. Y., July 29th, 1858.

#### Journals received since our last issue :

Chicago Medical Journal.  
College Journal.  
Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.  
Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal.  
Physio-Medical Recorder, Cinn.  
Med. and Surg. Reporter, Burlington, N. J.  
Medical Chronicle, Montreal, Ca.  
Eclectic Medical Journal, Cinn.  
Eclectic Medical Journal, Phila.  
Iowa Medical Journal. Keokuk.  
Buffalo Medical Journal.  
Peninsular and Independent Journal, Detroit.  
Lancet and Observer, Cinn.  
Medical and Surgical Journal, Phila.  
St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal.  
Maine Med. and Surgical Reporter, Portland.

## SYMPHYTUM OFFICINALE.

*Comfrey.*

A perennial European plant, much cultivated in our gardens for medicinal purposes. The root is the official part.

## MEDICAL PROPERTIES.

The therapeutic effects of the comfrey are due to its mucilaginous properties, which act upon the mucous membranes. It is demulcent and somewhat astringent. Useful in diarrhea, dysentery, coughs, hemoptysis, other pulmonary affections, leucorrhea, and female debility.

## PREPARATION.

Fluid Extract.....Dose, 2 to 4 Drams.

## INFUSION OF COMFREY.

Fluid Extract.....Six Ounces.

Water.....Ten Ounces.

Dose—Half to two ounces.

## SYRUP OF COMFREY.

Fluid Extract.....Four Ounces.

Syrup.....Six Ounces.

Dose—Two to six drams.

## PULMONARY BALSAM.

Fluid Extract of Comfrey.....One Dram.

“ “ Spikenard.....“ “

“ “ Elecampane.....“ “

“ “ Bloodroot.....“ “

“ “ Horehound.....“ “

“ “ Wild Cherry.....“ “

Alcohol.....Ten Drams.

Syrup.....Eight Ounces.

Dose—Half to one ounce.

## CONVALLARIA MULTIFLORA.

## SOLOMON'S SEAL.

These plants grow on the sides of meadows, high banks, woods, and mountains, in the Northern and Eastern States, and Canada. The root is the part used in the medicine.



MEDICAL PROPERTIES.

Tonic, mucilaginous, and mildly astringent : of much value in leucorrhœa, menorrhagia, female debility, and pectoral affections. An infusion will be found of great efficacy in irritable conditions of the intestines, as well as in chronic inflammations of these parts, especially when attended with burning sensations, pain, &c.

PREPARATION.

Fluid Extract.....Dose, 2 to 6 Drams.

INFUSION OF SOLOMON'S SEAL.

Fluid Extract.....Four Ounces.

Water.....Twelve Ounces.

Dose—One to four ounces.

RESTORATIVE WINE BITTERS.

Fluid Extract of Solomon's Seal.....One Ounce.

“ “ Comfrey.....“ “

“ “ Spikenard.....“ “

“ “ Chamomile.....Half “

“ “ Colombo.....“ “

“ “ Gentian.....“ “

Sherry wine.....Four Pints.

Dose—Half to two ounces.

ANTIBILIOUS PILL.

*Furnished by H. JOSLYN, M. D., Syracuse, N. Y.*

Alces.....Four Ounces.

Gamboge.....Two “

Jalap or Colocynth Pulvis.....One “

Calomel.....“ “

Castile Soap.....“ “

Oil of Anise.....“ Dram.

Pulverize, mix, and wet with water. It acts upon all parts of the intestinal canal, does not nauseate, causes free discharge of the bile, and leaves the bowels in good condition.

## Correspondence.

BRISTOL VILLAGE, MORGAN CO., O.,  
July 6th, 1858.

Allow me, through the columns of your journal, to offer to my medical brethren a compound, to my knowledge not mentioned in any medical work now extant, but which is worthy of being known. It is called *Phosioda*, or the *Compound Tincture of Phosphorus and Iodine*. It is made as follows: Take a roll of common phosphorus, drop it into a quart of good alcohol, let it stand twenty-four or forty-eight hours, till it is saturated (for alcohol will not take up more than two per cent. of it), then take out the roll or stick, add to the quart of alcohol five or six drops of a well-saturated tincture of iodine to prevent its firing on the tongue, and it is then ready for use. The dose is from thirty to sixty drops.

It cures all fevers, eruptions, ulcers, or even cancers, of any part of the system, particularly those of the uterus, bladder, trachea, lungs, and skin. It arrests gonorrhea, menorrhagia, and hemoptysis. It cures syphilis and bubos. It is a valuable ingredient in dropsical compounds—say one part of it to one of cantharis. tinct. and one of cajuput oil. Dose—twenty to forty minims. Four ounces of the above to a quart of syrup gives teaspoonful doses for children.

DR. A. KIRK.

MANN'S CHOICE, PA., July 13th, 1858.

The reputation your preparations enjoy all over the country are a sufficient guarantee that they are all right. For my own part, I think you have attained, to say the least, the ultimatum of medical nicety in your preparations. Your extracts are the very things we need,—concentrated remedies,—doing away with the necessity of administering large quantities of crude material in order to obtain specific effects—and so palatable, too! Medicines, at best, are unpleasant enough to the sick: how very desirable, then, your beautiful extracts, which, indeed, seem more like confections than medicines, and which obviate, so far as can be done, all the hitherto repugnance to medicine engendered by the patient having to swallow a barrel of nasty stuff in order to get an ounce of virtue!

W. J. MULLIN, M. D.

BOONE COUNTY, VA., Nov. 15th, 1857.

I want some of all your preparations, as in my long and constant practice of upwards of twenty years in this country and in Europe, I have met with no preparations that in convenience of combination and portability could compete with them.

GEO. VAN DE LINDE, M. D.

WOLCOTT, VT., June 7th, 1858.

I believe that the general use of your concentrated preparations and fluid extracts will prove the severest blow to quackery that has ever been struck.

E. P. FAIRMAN, M. D.

CIRCLEVILLE, O., June 18th, 1858.

We are glad to state that we have dealt in your preparations ever since you commenced their manufacture, and can truly say that we have sold nothing in our line that has given better satisfaction than your articles.

GEO. H. FRICKTARDT & CO.

MARION, O., July 12th, 1858.

I have been and am now using a large number of your extracts in my practice, and must say that they "fill the bill," and are the most reliable preparations now in use.

F. E. POWERS, M. D.

BENTONSPORT, IOWA, June 9th, 1858.

Some six years ago I found some of your fluid extracts while in New York, and I have been using them ever since, and am well pleased with their action.

F. C. CORNELL, M. D.

PRINCESS ANNE C. H., VA.,  
April 29th, 1858.

Inclosed please find twenty-five cents for your invaluable journal. I think you are deserving great credit for your unceasing efforts in placing our vegetable materia medica on a scientific basis.

T. J. FENTRESS, M. D.

FAIR HAVEN, VT., June, 1858.

No one, after using your various reliable and refined medicinal preparations, will again think of returning to the "beggary elements" of the rusty iron kettle-boiled extracts.

J. SANFORD, M. D.

HARRISBURG, PA., May 26th, 1858.

The medical profession is largely indebted to you for your successful endeavors to furnish pure and reliable remedies, and for one, I feel duly and deeply grateful. I have been using your extracts for years with the most satisfactory results, and feel confident that I have effected with their aid a vast deal of good.

CHAS. E. BOMBURGH, M. D.

HAVERHILL, MASS., June 12th, 1858.

I am well satisfied with the results obtained from the use of your fluid extracts. I consider them to be valuable preparations for the purposes intended, and preferable to all others now in the market, especially your *Fluid Extract of Veratrum*. It is a splendid febrifuge. There is nothing like to it as a pulse-controller. It is the most potent article in the whole range of therapeutic remedies in fevers that I have ever used. Indeed, such is its power to regulate the motions of the heart, that *nothing can be compared to it*. I have used it with the most satisfactory results. By it I have saved many from a long run of fever. I have great experience in its use, and am prepared to speak of its power from a practical knowledge of its virtue.

A. R. PORTER, M. D.



COPLY, OHIO, *May 31st, 1858.*

Your fluid extracts are quite supplanting the use of tinctures. The Cannabis Indica is exciting great attention here in the cure of consumption.

ELIJAH CANFIELD, M. D.

BATH, N. H., *June 7th, 1858.*

I have been using your Fluid Extract of Veratrum Viride with marked success.

WM. CHILD, M. D.

ELBRIDGE, N. Y., *March 15th, 1858.*

So far as I have been able to obtain your extracts and use them, I have been much pleased with their uniform strength and efficiency. I have used the Fluid Extract of Veratrum Viride with the most happy effects in the typhoid fevers of this locality. In fact, it would not now be easy for me to manage a case without it. Its effects in controlling the circulation and holding in check the excited action of the heart in this disease places it not second to the sulphate of quinine in the treatment of this class of diseases.

I have given many others of your very valuable medicinal extracts repeated trials, and have yet to find the first case to disappoint me in their effects.

H. E. ROBERTS, M. D.

GLENBORO, MASS., *July 12th, 1858.*

In my long and constant practice I have found no remedies so effective and uniformly reliable as those coming from your establishment. Accept my congratulations for your successful applications of scientific principles to the science of pharmacy.

AUGUSTUS THOMPSON, M. D.

BRYANTOWN, CHAS. CO., MD.,  
*July 30th, 1858.*

Dear Sirs:—I have received several of your journals of pharmacy, which I think, if properly conducted or carried out, will amply remunerate you, and be a blessing to the community. The first numbers I received, on opening, I took them to be of the regular trash which are scattered over the country to humbug the people; consequently they were destroyed without examination into its merits. You will, therefore, be so kind as to furnish me with the back numbers, which I promise to give a thorough perusal. By so doing you will much oblige,

Yours most respectfully,

(Signed) SAM'L A. MUDD, M. D.

CAPE FAIR, MO., *July 10th, 1858.*

In looking over your *Journal of Materia Medica*, I see you have noticed the *Yellow Jessamine*, a plant, the properties of which I have, from a practice of five or six years, become acquainted with. I believe that the active principle (*Gelseminin*) obtained according to your method will furnish a more convenient and efficient article than the medicine in its crude state.

OSCAR ROGERS, M. D.

BEARDSTOWN, ILL., *July 17th, 1858.*

Inclosed please find the amount of a year's subscription to the *Journal of Materia Medica*. Notwithstanding the preconceived but mistaken impression that your JOURNAL was nothing more than the usual form of pamphlet advertising, I have read it with pleasure and find it to contain much information both interesting and valuable to our profession. Such journals are much needed, where we can obtain the latest discovered properties of medicines from month to month without waiting for new editions of such works as the United States Dispensatory, which happens but at intervals of from three to five years.

BENJAMIN MARSHALL, M. D.

LISBON, GRAFTON CO., N. H.,  
*July 22d, 1858.*

TILDEN & Co.—*Gents:*—Your *Journal of Materia Medica* for June and July has fallen into my hands. I would like the April and May No.

I have, for two years past, used your preparations of Podophyllin and Leptandrin in almost all of my cathartic preparations as a substitute for calomel, and esteem them very highly. Where I have given calomel as a cathartic, I have usually combined it with the above articles, and think their combined action in bilious troubles more efficient than either alone.

I want the formulæ in your last number before the one at hand, for your Improved Compound Cathartic Pill, which I think may be a valuable substitute for the original of the Dispensatory.

Respectfully yours,

C. H. BOYNTON, M. D.

BERNARDSTON, MASS., *July 19th, 1858.*

I inclose postage stamps to pay for your *Journal of Materia Medica*. I have been in practice of medicine for more than fifty years, and have availed myself of many of the periodical publications which have been issued in that time, on medical subjects, but have never met with any thing so well adapted to the wants of the profession as this of yours. Could I have been possessed with such a work thirty, forty, or fifty years ago, I doubt not but my practice would have been far more beneficial to the community, and satisfactory to myself, than it has been, although I have considered it, and have reason to think it has been considered by others. a successful one. May you be prospered and blessed in your efforts to advance the cause of medical practice.

JOHN BROOKS, M. D.

#### INSECTS NEVER GROW.

Many people fancy that a little fly is only little because it is young, and that it will grow up in process of time to be as big as a blue-bottle. All the growing and most part of the eating is done in its previous states of life; and, indeed, there are many insects, such as the silk-worm moth, which do not eat at all from the time that they assume the chrysalis state to the time when they die.

### To Physicians.

We receive daily small orders for our preparations from physicians at a distance, and letters inquiring where they can be procured. We regret our limited space will not allow us to publish a full list of druggists and apothecaries who keep them, but hope to do so in a future edition. We therefore must request physicians to order through their apothecary, who can always obtain a supply of the wholesale druggists in

Me.—Bangor,	N. H.—Concord,
Portland,	Portsmouth.
Bath.	Mass.—Boston,
R. I.—Providence,	Springfield,
Newport.	Worcester,
Conn.—New London,	New Bedford,
New Haven,	Taunton.
Hartford,	N. Y.—New York,
Bridgeport.	Albany,
Pa.—Philadelphia,	Troy,
Pittsburg.	Utica,
Va.—Richmond,	Syraeuse,
Petersburg.	Rochester,
N. C.—Raleigh.	Buffalo,
S. C.—Charleston.	Corning,
Ill.—Chicago.	Auburn,
Md.—Baltimore.	Oswego.
Del.—Wilmington.	Tenn.—Nashville.
Ky.—Louisville.	Ala.—Macon,
Ga.—Savannah,	Mobile.
Columbus,	D. C.—Washington,
Atalanta.	Georgetown.
Mich.—Detroit,	Mo.—St. Louis.
Ypsilanti.	N. J.—Newark.
Miss.—Natchez.	Vt.—Rutland.
La.—New Orleans,	Ohio.—Cleveland,
Baton Rouge.	Cincinnati,
Ind.—Indianapolis.	Dayton,
Ia.—Keokuk.	Columbus.
Wis.—Milwaukie.	Cal.—San Francisco,
Oregon.—Portland City.	Sacramento,

or in any of the large towns or cities of the United States.

The trade will be supplied by W. T. PEEK, 98 John-street, New York, and T. MORRIS PEROT & Co., 621 Market-street, Philadelphia.

We state for the benefit of many inquirers that our Extracts of *Indian Hemp* (*Foreign*), or CANNABIS INDICA, are prepared from the imported drug, while the *Indian Hemp* is the APOCYNUM CANNABINUM, an indigenous plant. Bitter root is the APOCYNUM ANDROSEMIFOLIUM.

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co. :

At the annual meeting of the Berkshire District Medical Society, held in Lenox, on Wednesday the 30th day of June ult., the following preamble and resolution were submitted by Prof. Timothy Childs, of the Berkshire Medical College, and passed unanimously :

*Whereas*, The best directed efforts of the physicians are often rendered inefficient through the worthlessness of the medicinal preparations which he dispenses, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the successful efforts of the Messrs. Tilden to furnish the profession with reliable articles of the Materia Medica, and the improved processes introduced by them in the preparations of their medicines, are eminently deserving the grateful acknowledgments of this society. On motion of Dr. Oliver E. Brewster, of Pittsfield, it was *voted*, "That the secretary be instructed to transmit to the Messrs. Tilden, a copy of the above resolution."

J. B. WHITING,

*Sec. of Berk. Dist. Med. Soc.*

LEE, MASS., July 20th, 1858.

The attention of physicians being so generally called to the various articles of the Materia Medica, by the discussions that appear in our columns, we are day by day asked to inform how small quantities may be forwarded for experiment in certain cases physicians happen to have on their hands. We are always willing to accommodate such applications, and upon receipt of a remittance by mail, agree to forward to applicants, specimens to the full value of the remittance. It is always desirable that these applications be made through the druggist of the section, but when this cannot be conveniently done, direct application to us will meet immediate attention.

We have received the Annual Catalogue and Announcement of the St. Louis Medical College for the session of 1858 and '59.

The faculty consists of Drs. Linton, Litton, Pope, Pallen, McPheeters, Stevens, Johnson, Walters, and Gregory.

Students attending lectures at this school have the run of the St. Louis Hospital, City Hospital, United States Marine Hospital, St. Louis Lying-in Hospital, and the O'Fallen Clinic and Dispensary.



## FLUID EXTRACTS.

We have completed an entirely new and uniform set of directions for all the Fluid Extracts prepared at our establishment, the doses of which have been made to correspond to those calculated for the *BOOK OF FORMULÆ*. In the preparation of that book, a careful and thorough investigation of the strength of all the Fluid Extracts was instituted, which resulted, in some cases, in important modifications of the doses that had previously been given on the bottles containing the extracts. We wish it distinctly borne in mind, that if any conflict is discovered between the doses of the extracts on the bottles now in circulation, and the doses given in the *BOOK OF FORMULÆ*, the latter are, in all cases, to be taken as standard. The doses are calculated on the basis of the crude material, as well as on the precise relation the extract bears to the crude material in point of strength, so that the same liberty and exercise of discretion is afforded to the practitioner in administering the extracts as in giving the crude drug; and this either in the way of increasing or diminishing the dose according to the idiosyncrasy of the patient. A standard is every way necessary, and the doses for the crude material, as furnished by the United States Dispensatory, have been considered as the most available standard. Physicians will oblige by making the comparison between the doses on the bottles and the doses given in the synopsis in the *BOOK OF FORMULÆ*, in all cases where this may be possible.

## Extracts from the Journals.

## BARK OF THE COTTON ROOT AS AN EC-BOLIC.

BY B. C. SMITH, M. D.

In the administration of any medicine with the view of ascertaining its degree of action on the system, or specific influence over any certain portion of it, we should note the quality of the agent used and the condition of the person subjected to the experiment; also other circumstances which might have a material bearing in the results.

I collected a lot of cotton root in autumn, after the frost had killed the top of the plant. The root was washed immediately and permitted to dry in the shade, after which it was kept in a bundle wrapped in thick brown paper about twelve months. A quarter of a pound of the bark was stripped off, to which was added two pints of boiling water, the vessel covered closely and kept warm two hours, when the infusion was found to be highly colored and strongly impregnated with the properties of the bark, and the patient commenced to drink it.

The subject of the experiment was a married lady, twenty-seven years of age, and in her fourth pregnancy, having reached about the end of the seventh month. There was nothing very notable about her temperament, habit, or occupation. The fetus had been dead three weeks, and putrefactive absorption was rendering the condition of the mother perilous. Both parents were affected with constitutional syphilis, which may account for the death of the fetus.

The above infusion was taken by this patient during twenty-four hours, without the use of any other means calculated to induce labor. At the end of that time the os uteri was found to be hot, thick, and resisting, remaining firmly closed. The contractions of the womb had evidently been very slight, though feeble pains were generally felt a short time after taking a draught of the tea; yet labor had made no discoverable progress. The condition of the patient not being such as to warrant further experiment, I made direct application of belladonna ointment to the os. In seven hours I returned and found the patient refreshed by a quiet slumber. The mouth of the womb was very yielding; the end of the index finger could be introduced without difficulty. After passing a bougie around between the membranes and internal surface of the uterus, the distance of about two inches, and making a small rupture in the membranes by puncturing them with a probe, I found the os quite dilatable, and gave infusion of ergot freely. As early as possible (fearing the powerful effects of the ergot), I excavated the fetal head and brought the collapsed skull into the mouth of the womb to assist, mechanically, in its dilatation.

Thus the delivery was accomplished with safety in less time than was occupied in the experiment with the cotton root. Now, I conclude that cotton root will not, under all circumstances, induce "uterine contractions equal to ergot," or "produce abortion with certainty and safety."

If those who have ample opportunity would make critical experiments and report them accurately, we might soon become as well satisfied in regard to the action of cotton root, as that of jalap or opium.—*College Journal*.

Our two-grain pills of Dover's Powder, are each composed of half-grain ipecac, half-grain opium, and one grain sulphate of potassa.

## ANODYNE SUPPOSITORIES.

In cases of severe pain after operations upon the viscera of the pelvis in either sex, and especially in difficulties of the male genito-urinary organs;—as in cases of retention of urine, irritable stricture, inflamed prostate, etc.; and after operations upon the perineum, anus, and the rectum;—a local anodyne effect can be produced by introducing into the rectum, in the form of a cone, cylinder, or pill, some quieting remedies. Messrs. Duncan and Flockhart, of Edinburgh, prepare them after the following formula, which is much more effectual than the common soap and opium suppository, and is seldom or never expelled when introduced above the sphincter: Take of acetate of morphia, six grains; sugar of milk, one dram; simple cerate, half a dram, or as much as may be sufficient to make a proper consistence, and divide the mass into twelve suppositories. It will be observed that each suppository contains a half grain of morphia. In cases of retention of urine from constriction of the neck of the bladder, a small quantity of the extract of belladonna may be added to the mass before it is divided and used. A good way to coat the suppositories is to insert a needle into the apex of each, and then dip it into melted wax and lard—one part of the former to two of the latter—and immediately afterwards into cold water to harden it before it loses its shape. These can be introduced within the rectum with the aid of the finger, or more neatly by the ordinary suppository tube. Mr. Coulson has used these suppositories lately in several lithotripsy cases, and has found them of great service in allaying the irritation which often attends the passage of the fragments of calculi through the urethra. In cases of severe tenesmus in dysentery, anodyne suppositories will be found efficient in overcoming the difficulty. From the flattering accounts given of these agents, it is probable that they will come into more general use.—*College Journal*.

## INDISCRIMINATE SALE OF POISONS.

In a late number we alluded to the very dangerous custom of selling active poisons to irresponsible parties, without a prescription from a physician, or some other guarantee that no criminal use would be made of the article purchased. We desired to call attention to the importance of a legal enactment which should place some restraint upon this practice, and related the case of a young girl who obtained, without the slightest difficulty, of an apothecary, half an ounce of laudanum, which she swallowed with the intention to commit suicide. The medicine was delivered to her in a tea-cup, which she brought for the purpose. Quite recently a similar case of culpable carelessness on the part of an apothecary has occurred in this city, which resulted in a more disastrous manner. A few days ago, a young woman, who had been partially insane for two months past, purchased at a drug store six cents' worth of arsenic, which she mixed in a glass of lemonade, and swallowed. An emetic was immediately

given, which caused free vomiting, and it was supposed she was out of danger. She died, however, the next day. It was supposed, from her confessions, that she had taken other poisons. The coroner's jury in their verdict caution apothecaries against this practice, which they consider to be highly reprehensible, and which ought to be severely punished.—*Boston Medical Journal*.

## BOOK OF FORMULÆ.

From August No. American Medical Gazette.

Formulæ for making Tinctures, Infusions, Syrups, Wines, Mixtures, Pills, &c., simple and compound, from the Fluid and Solid Extracts prepared at the Laboratory of Tilden & Co., New Lebanon, New York. 1858.

This is a useful and convenient volume, published by Tilden & Co., abounding in practical information in a department in which very many physicians are not adequately informed. The pharmaceutical details here given will be invaluable to practitioners in the interior of the country, and especially to those who have learned to prize the solid and fluid extracts prepared by these gentlemen, which we continue to find reliable and efficient; thus corroborating the evidence heretofore given by our most eminent physicians touching the care and accuracy by which all the preparations of the Tildens are distinguished. The formulæ appended to this volume have been judiciously selected, and greatly enhance the value of the book. It is an octavo volume of 186 pages, with full indexes, and we advise our readers to procure it, of the authors or of Mr. Peek, 98 John-street, New York.

## THE VENOM OF SERPENTS.

BY J. GILMAN, A. M., M. D.

The results of a great number of experiments performed with the venom of a great variety of serpents, seem to lead to the following conclusions:

- 1st. That the venom of all serpents acts as a poison in a similar manner.
- 2d. That the venom of some varieties is far more active than that of others.
- 3d. That a variety of the colluber, known as the cotton-mouth, is the most venomous serpent in Arkansas.
- 4th. That the venom of serpents destroys all forms of organized life, vegetable as well as animal.
- 5th. That alcohol, if brought in contact with the venom, is, to a certain extent, an antidote.
- 6th. That serpents do possess the power of fascinating small animals, and that this power is identical with mesmerism.
- 7th. That the blood of small animals, destroyed by the venom of serpents, bears a close resemblance to that of animals destroyed by lightning or hydrocyanic acid; it loses its power of coagulation and cannot be long kept from putrefaction.—*St. Louis Medical and Surg. Journal*.



## FLUID EXTRACTS AND TINCTURES.

*Their relative expense considered.*

The desirability of fluid extracts, as, under all ordinary circumstances, being more prominent than any other form of administering medicine, has now come to be an admitted fact. Their superiority in point of reliability, uniformity, and portability, has brought them into extensive use, while their superior efficacy has been attested in the every-day practice of physicians who use them.

This point being settled, the vital question of economy makes an appeal. And this question assumes the shape of a comparison between fluid extracts and official tinctures prepared according to prescribed formulæ from the crude material. Are fluid extracts more expensive than tinctures? The design of tinctures is, in the main, to afford medicine in a state easily digestible, and so as to be quickly taken into the system and produce the specific effect desired. They are chiefly prepared with diluted alcohol, as dissolving substances not easily, or not at all, soluble in water. The success of the preparation depends upon the accurate proportioning of the menstruum to the exhaustion of the material. The amount of the menstruum in each case varies, and the dose is proportioned to the dose of the drug in powder, modified, however, by the stimulus the alcohol employed will occasion. The actual strength of the preparation will vary, and no exact uniformity with the crude drug can be maintained. If the process of preparation is carried on in each case with accuracy, there will be a uniformity as respects themselves, but not with the crude material. The quantity required to produce the effect is much larger in proportion, and as a consequence there is an increased proportion in the cost.

But, on the other hand, fluid extracts represent with uniformity the crude material, and that not in certain variable ratios, but in the exact proportion of ounce for ounce. This increase in strength over that of tinctures is, on the average, about *four times*; so that while an ounce of fluid extract represents over four ounces of the tincture of the same drug, to keep to the same standard, an ounce of the fluid extract should bring four times the price of the tincture. In many cases, however, there is a greater disproportion in point of strength, and the price of the tinctures will run up much above the price of an amount of fluid extract, corresponding to the strength. There cannot, from the nature of the case, be an equality of strength, in any instance, between the fluid extract and tincture of the same drug, so that taking even those medicines in most common use, the price of fluid extracts will run much below the same amount of strength contained in tincture.

Take, for example, instances of the more important agents, as evidence of the disparity in strength between the fluid extracts and tinctures. The doses of the fluid extracts are taken from our *Book of Formulæ*, accurately calculated for the minimum and maximum, and the doses of the tincture from the United States Dispensatory.

	<i>Fluid Extracts.</i>	<i>Tinctures.</i>
Aconite,	2 to 8 drops.	20 to 30 drops.
Belladonna,	5 to 10 "	15 to 30 "
Buchu,	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 drams.	1 to 4 drams.
Colchicum,	5 to 15 drops.	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 "
Conium,	5 to 20 "	30 min. to 1 dr'm
Hellebore,	10 to 20 "	30 " to 1 "
Hyoscyamus,	10 to 20 "	1 dram.
Straonium,	5 to 20 "	20 to 40 drops.
Valerian,	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ drams.	1 to 4 drams.

In these nine instances the average minimum dose of the tinctures is over six times and the maximum five times as great as those of the fluid extracts, and those are of the more powerful medicines where the doses of the tinctures will naturally run low, both from the powerful nature of the drug and the quantity of the alcohol contained in them.

Tinctures are, in point of fact, dilutions and solutions. Fluid extracts are representatives of a fixed quantity in solution. It is impossible that the common methods of preparing tinctures bring out the full virtues of the plant. Fluid extracts claim to hold the entire active principles of the plant in solution, and fulfil that claim. The doses for administering are of necessity smaller, from their greater concentration and strength.

The inference from these facts is, then, that in estimating the relative price of fluid extracts and tinctures, account must be taken of the difference in concentration and strength, the difference in quantity requisite to produce a given therapeutic effect, and this wholly apart from any consideration of their uniformity, greater reliability, portability, and convenience.

## THE ODDITY OF THE CHAMELEON.

This singular creature is characterized by a much more remarkable peculiarity than its varied and changing color. It seems not to be homogeneous; at least, betwixt the two sides of the body there seems a lack of sympathy. One eye may be looking straight forward, while the other is looking as directly backward; one may be entirely asleep while the other is wide awake; and this kind of independent and separate action applies to each side of the creature—to its limbs. It cannot swim, because its limbs refuse to act in concert. Could the two sides understand one another, and agree on a prescribed course of action, it might always be awake or half awake. But it gains nothing by its unilateral independence; the two sides are like two horses that will not work in harness. It seems strange, with such a peculiarity, that on trees or *terra firma* it should be able to make any progress. But as the two sides are fed by one mouth, and as the insect tribes refuse to come to it, so they seem, in regard to all culinary matters, to agree to sink their differences, and to move in harmony. The stomach is a potent harmonizer, and thus a divided and obstinate jury are often starved into a unanimous verdict.

## VERATRUM VIRIDE.

(American Hellebore.)

By P. STEWART, Peekskill, N. Y.

The stem of the American hellebore is annual, striated, round, pubescent, and solid, from three to six feet high, furnished with bright green leaves, and terminating in a panicle of greenish yellow flowers. It is found from Canada to Carolina, inhabiting swamps, wet meadows, and the banks of streams. It is liable to be mistaken for the *symplocarpus fetida* (skunk cabbage), which it somewhat resembles in its first starting from the ground in the spring and with which it is associated; but the latter can be readily distinguished by its peculiar odor, and by its sending forth no stem like the former.

Dr. Charles Osgood, of Providence, R. I., in an article published more than 20 years ago, seems to have been the first who turned attention to the influence of this article over the nervous system, but from fear of its great power, or the disastrous effects of an over-dose, or from some other cause, it did not until recently obtain general use. But since Dr. Norwood of South Carolina published the results of his experience with it, almost every American physician deems it his essential daily companion, and it is a matter of astonishment to every one who has tested its virtues, that its usefulness should not sooner have been more generally known.

As an emetic its action is too violent to be generally useful or admissible, but its power over the nervous system, and through that, of the heart and blood-vessels, can often be turned to the very best account. Its ability to control the pulse is probably far greater than any other article known to medicine, and in appropriate cases it accomplishes its work speedily and safely. In threatened convulsions in children where the pulse is 180 or more, as in the beginning of some violent eruptive or intermittent fever, or irritations in the alimentary canal, the pulse is brought to its natural standard, or even below it, at pleasure, and the convulsions momentarily expected in most instances prevented. It is indicated in most sthenic diseases in which the pulse is increased in force and frequency. In inflammatory croup (not diphtheritic), given after emesis in combination with calomel, it is one of our best remedies. In rheumatism and gout it is highly recommended by some; but while it does good in those affections, it seems not so efficient as colchicum, and cannot with advantage be substituted for that. In pneumonia, pleurisy, carditis, and pericarditis, in their acute form, it is an agent of great power and efficiency.

The most reliable form in which it can be given, according to the writer's experience, is the saturated tincture; beginning in the adult with a dose of 5 drops, and increasing one drop every dose until the desired effect is produced, —repeated every two hours, or in urgent cases, for two or three doses, every 20 or 30 minutes. After the pulse is brought down to the point desired, it may be continued there by the maximum dose of 5 drops repeated every 3 or 4 hours. In children, the dose must correspond

with the age and strength of the patient. To a robust child of one year old one drop may be given; of two years, one drop and a-half; three years, two drops; and so on, repeated as often as before mentioned, but increasing the dose sparingly and cautiously.

PEEKSKILL, Aug. 13, 1858.

## CURIOUS PHENOMENON IN THE POTTERS FIELD.—THE DEAD TURNING TO SPERMACEIN.

A sensation was created some days since in the vicinity of Potters Field, at the discovery of a body which had undergone a remarkable transformation. The body had lain under three tiers of corpses, and the head and feet had disappeared, while the remaining portion, which was somewhat enlarged above its natural dimensions, presented the appearance of wax of an alabaster whiteness. In short, the whole muscular structure had been changed into that substance known as adipocere. This is a species of soap formed upon a principle analogous to what is known as "fatty degeneration" in living bodies. The acids of fat, the stearic and margaric, are formed, and combine with ammonia and lime, which are derived from the elements of the body. \* \* \* It was formerly supposed that no such change took place, but only that the fat of the body remained undecomposed after the muscle had dissolved, but this proposition was soon discovered to be untenable. A body, which had been interred during the civil wars of the Houses of York and Lancaster, was exhumed in England, some years since, which appeared to be in a state of remarkable preservation, the flesh retaining the plumpness of life. It was soon found to be completely saponified, and the adipocere greatly exceeded the amount of fat which the body could have possibly contained. Muscle placed in water several weeks, it is now known, will undergo this change, the elements of proteine and albumen becoming adipose substance.—*Post*.

## HOW TO DESTROY ROACHES.

In moving to tenements vacated by unclean people, persons often find themselves overrun with myriads of mahogany-colored roaches. The *North American* says: "This was our case, yet we so speedily exterminated the vermin, that others similarly situated may get rid of them. Make a smooth flour paste in a tin vessel holding about a pint. In one-half this quantity of paste, while hot, place a shilling's worth of phosphorus, stirring it awhile over the fire until incorporated with the paste, which will require about ten minutes. A stick about a foot long should be used for this purpose, in order that a flying particle may not burn the hands. When nearly cold, put in sufficient lard or grease to prevent the mixture from drying. Then spread it thickly upon pieces of glass, and lay them within reach of the roaches. They will devour it with great greediness, and swell and die at their repast. Nothing half so efficacious as this is sold at the shops."



## THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF PARALYSIS.

BY MARSHALL HALL, M. D., F. R. S., LONDON.

(Read before the Institute of France, Academy of Sciences.)

As there are two principal nervous centres, the brain and the spinal cord, so there are two great classes of paralyses, according as the influence of the brain or spinal system is intercepted or annihilated.

I denominate cases belonging to the first class, in which the palsied parts are deprived of the influence of the brain, *cerebral paralysis*. Cases in which the influence of the spinal cord is intercepted from my second class, *spinal paralysis*. I do not mean to imply by these terms that there are, in these cases respectively, lesions of the encephalon or spinal cord, but simply that by some disease or injury the influence of these organs is abolished, so far as the muscles of the palsied limbs are concerned. Hemiplegia is ordinarily a cerebral paralysis; but in some cases, a spinal paralysis also; whereas disease limited to a small part of the dorsal segment of the cord produces a *cerebral paralysis* of the lower extremities; the influence of the portion of spinal cord below the seat of disease continuing to reach the palsied limbs. The destruction of a considerable portion of the spinal cord, or a suspension or annihilation of the functions of the spinal cord produces a spinal paralysis.

A cerebral paralysis, I repeat, is one in which the muscles are deprived of the influence of the brain; a spinal paralysis, one in which the muscles are deprived of the influence of the spinal cord.

Facial hemiplegia is a cerebral paralysis; paralysis of the facial nerve is a spinal paralysis. The distinctive characteristics of these two classes of palsies are as follows:—

In cerebral paralysis, the influence of the will is alone interrupted. When this paralysis is complete, voluntary movements are abolished. All the functions depending on the medulla oblongata and spinal cord persist. We have, in different cases:

1. Emotional movements;
2. Movements connected with yawning, coughing, etc.;
3. Diastolic movements;
4. Tonic symmetrical contractions of the hands;
5. Comparative increase in the irritability of Haller;
6. Comparative increase in susceptibility to the action of strychnia.

In spinal paralysis, the four species of movements above enumerated are not observed, and the Hallerian irritability is comparatively less.

I return to cases of hemiplegia. In most cases, shortly after the attack, there is somewhat of an amelioration, a partial return of voluntary power; the phenomena I have mentioned are manifested also. In other cases there is no amelioration; the phenomena adverted to are absent or scarcely perceptible. There are no tonic spasms of the hand and arm; the Hallerian irritability is not augmented. It might be said that such cases were exceptions to the rules I have laid down. The truth is, it appears to me, that, in such instances, the shock

of the attack has been sufficient to destroy, so to speak, the nervous power of the spinal system. Thus, when we divide the spinal marrow of the frog from the brain by an incision, we suspend nervous power, so as to abolish diastolic movements. A yet more violent shock, as a stroke of lightning, would annihilate it altogether.

These phenomena are objects of pure observation, excepting that relating to irritability. To test this function of the muscular fibre, I have experimented on various occasions, with the aid of galvanism, and repeated my experiments with every precaution.

I made use of a simple galvanic current, produced by a Cruikshank machine. I placed a palsied and a sound hand, for example, in the same basin of pure water, and the feet in another, and carefully observed which was affected by the slightest degree of galvanism. I found that in cerebral paralysis, the palsied limb is most susceptible of galvanic excitation; whereas in spinal paralysis, the palsied limb is less susceptible than the sound one.

I deduce from these experiments many conclusions of interest both to the physiologist and the physician.

1. That the brain, by its acts of volition, tends to exhaust muscular irritability.

2. That the spinal marrow, on the contrary, is the source of this irritability.

3. That galvanism will serve to diagnose between cerebral paralysis and spinal paralysis.

The phenomena I have already enumerated: yawning, the effects of emotion, diastolic movements, symmetrical tonic spasms, the effects of strychnia, etc.

Besides cerebral and spinal paralysis, there are nervous affections connected with the medulla oblongata and pneumogastric nerves, which I propose to discuss on a future occasion, as well as the diseases of the ganglionic system.

Lastly, to complete our enumeration of paralyses, there remain several varieties of palsy that are exceedingly obscure; *paralysis cum agitatione*; *paralysies e plumbo*, *e rheumatismo*, *ex hysteria*, *e dentitione*, etc. Much labor is requisite before we can form clear ideas on these diseases. Emotions, spinal irritation, the action of poisons, the influence of pain, the effect of shock; what a field for study!—*Virginia Med. & Surg. Jour.*

### "HOUSE OF HEN FEATHERS."

At Pekin, in China, there is a phalanstery called the "House of Hen Feathers," where the poor are lodged for one-fifth of a farthing per night. It is simply a vast hall thickly strewn with feathers. Men, women and children all lie together in the beauty of communism; an immense coverlet is then let down over the party, with holes through which the sleepers put their heads, so as not to be suffocated. At daylight the phalansterian canopy is hoisted up, after a signal from the tam tam, to invite holeholders to draw back their heads or swing.

All pea blossoms turn their backs to the wind whenever the gale is strong enough to endanger the delicate parts upon which the seed depends.

## Miscellaneous.

### DATES OF PRINCIPAL INVENTIONS.

It so frequently happens that anachronism of the most glaring kind disfigure the class of novels purporting to depict the olden time, that we think we shall render service to scores of authors by inserting the following tables of the dates of the principal inventions of human industry, which we translate from an ingenious little French pamphlet from the pen of the late M. Cabet:

	Year.
Shoeing of horses (in France).....	431
Invention of water mills.....	565
Invention of wind mills.....	1289
The use of bells in churches.....	600
The invention of glass (in England)....	664
Clocks (in France).....	760
Organ sent from Constantinople to France	757
Invention of musical notes.....	1028
Invention of distillery.....	1150
Importation of sugar from India.....	1150
Invention of the violin.....	1184
Paving (in Paris).....	1185
Introduction of compass.....	1260
Invention of spectacles (in France).....	1280
“ earthenware (in Italy).....	1289
“ paper made with rag.....	1312
“ gunpowder.....	1330
“ cannons.....	1346
The first hat manufactured (in Paris) ...	1404
Painting on canvass with oils.....	1410
Wood engraving.....	1423
Invention of printing.....	1442
Invention of the pulley and screw.....	1452
Establishment of the post office.....	1464
Aqua fortis and line engraving.....	1480
Peal of bells.....	1487
Discovery of America.....	1497
First pocket watch.....	1500
Wire.....	1500
Invention of the spinning wheel.....	1530
Invention of the padlock.....	1540
First pin made in England.....	1543
Sealing wax.....	1550
Tobacco.....	1550
Air gun.....	1560
Public carriages.....	1571
Bombs and mortars.....	1588
Telescopes.....	1588
Glass manufactories in France.....	1608
Naval telescopes.....	1610
Tea brought into Europe.....	1619
Use of wigs.....	1620
Barometers and thermometers.....	1620
Printing of colored engravings.....	1626
Chocolate imported into France.....	1626
Saw mill.....	1633
Pendulums.....	1636
Hoisting jacks.....	1639
Peruvian bark brought to France.....	1646
Hackney coaches.....	1650
Lobelins tapestry.....	1656
Printed calicoes manufactured in France..	1660
Lighting and sweeping the streets.....	1666
First opera performed in Paris.....	1669
Coffee imported into France.....	1669

Machine for weaving stockings.....	1670
Bayonets.....	1670
The Alembic and Balneum Mariæ. ....	1675
Umbrellas.....	1680
Casting of plate glass.....	1688
Porcelain manufactured at Chantilly.....	1695
Guns used by the infantry.....	1699
Porcelain manufactured in Saxony.....	1760
Inoculation of the small pox.....	1713
Fire engines.....	1722
Names given to the streets of Paris.....	1728
First newspaper published in Paris (Gazette de France).....	1731
Electricity discovered.....	1746
Language invented for the deaf and dumb	1747
Conductors.....	1757
Two-penny post.....	1760
Potatoes brought to England in 1563, to the Netherlands in 1570, but only imported into France.....	1775
Galloons.....	1782
Telegraphs.....	1792
Sugar made from beet root in France.....	1795

—*Mer. and Manu. Journal.*

### ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION.

A new apparatus for this purpose has just been presented to the French Academy of Sciences, by M. Segnier. The usual method of hatching eggs artificially consists in placing them between layers of manure; M. Segnier, on the contrary, places them in nests consisting of straw, hay, shavings, &c., just as they would be in the case of natural incubation. Moreover, in the latter the egg receives warmth from above, and the same effect is imitated in the new system, which consists of a central stove from which eight or ten pairs of India-rubber tubes issue in various directions. Each pair establishes a communication between the stove and an India-rubber cap, which covers a nest filled with eggs. The steam generated in the stove is thus made to circulate constantly over the eggs, which are thus exposed to a moderate heat radiating upon them from the concave surface of the India-rubber cap. The warming apparatus described to the Academy of Sciences communicates warmth to eight nests, each containing twenty-four eggs, but the number of nests might be much greater.

**VANILLA.**—The vanilla, so much prized for its delicious flavor, is the product of a vine which grows to the top of the loftiest trees. Its leaves somewhat resemble those of the grape. The flowers are red and yellow, and when they fall off, are succeeded by the pods, which grow in clusters, like our ordinary beans; green at first, they change to yellow, and finally to a dark brown. To be preserved, they are gathered when yellow, and put in heaps for a few days, to ferment. They are afterward placed in the sun to dry, flattened by the hand, and carefully rubbed with cocoa-nut oil, and then packed in dry plantain leaves, so as to confine their powerful aromatic odor. The vanilla bean is the article used to scent snuff, flavor ice creams, jellies, &c. The plant grows in Central America and other hot countries.



## HYDROCYANATE OF IRON IN EPILEPSY.

In the March number of the JOURNAL, we called the attention of American practitioners to the use that D. L. M'GUGIN, professor in the Iowa Medical College, had made of the Hydrocyanate of Iron in Epilepsy. The following letter from that gentleman is well worthy a careful reading :

KEOKUK, IOWA, *July 28th, 1858.*

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co. :

I am quite obliged to you for the small package of the "Hydrocyanate of Iron," which you so promptly prepared for and forwarded to me, and also for the obliging promise to prepare more.

I have now an interesting case in the person of a young lady who is now under its use. It was received so recently that time has not been afforded for a trial of its benefits.

In 1854, an article appeared in the French journals, translated and published in the journals of this country, giving an account of the use of the above preparation of iron which was truly gratifying in the results from its use. M. Roux, one of the members of the faculty of the Medical Institution at Montpellier, treated six cases, all of which trials were successful. Another reported cases which resulted as happily, although one of them was a case of long standing, advanced in life, and the convulsive movements frequent and severe.

A case presented itself possessing unusual interest, being that of a young man, an only son, very intelligent and of much promise, intellectually and morally, but as he had been under treatment for some time, his condition was not in the least improved.

I determined upon a trial of the "hydrocyanate of iron," as it was a case which seemed to demand such a remedy, or such a combination. After spending much time in the search of the article I failed to procure it, when Prof. Proctor, of Philadelphia, was applied to, who kindly forwarded me a dram of it. This I used in this case, and after using it for two months the convulsions subsided, and did not reappear for many months, during which time, notwithstanding I had written in all directions, I was not able to procure more of the drug until your chemist favored me with a small parcel which I am now employing as above stated.

During the period employed in the use of the remedy, he expressed a decided change in his feelings, for instead of the despondency and gloom which had previously weighed him down, he was now sprightly and hopeful. The dread of the return of the paroxysms had been measurably dispelled, and he looked forward with confidence to an ultimate and permanent recovery. I believe that could he have continued the use of the remedy, these fond hopes, in which his family and friends largely participated, would have been realized. Although the epileptic spasms have returned, they are not so frequent, nor are they so severe. It is for his case that I desire more of the drug which you have kindly promised me, but I have

beside a few other cases in which I would be gratified in being able to use it.

Shortly after the article had been expended in this case, I called the attention of the medical public to it in the "Iowa Medical Journal," of which I was at that time one of the editors, —in Volume 2d, No. 2, 1854-55—in the hope that it would arrest the attention of my medical brethren, and that a further trial would be made of it, as this was manifestly the first case reported in which it had been used in the United States. It may have been tried, but if so, it has not been reported in any of the journals of this country, as I have searched every one carefully from that time to the present.

I would be gratified to learn that others had prescribed it in a disease so formidable in its character, and one too which awakens so much solicitude, on the part of the patient himself, and by the family and friends, towards one who is unfortunate enough to be afflicted with it. As I have been recently written to on the subject, inquiring in relation to the mode of using it, and that others may be tempted to try it, I subjoin the formulæ :

R. Hydrocyanate Ferri, 3j.

Pulv. Valerian, 3ij.

M. ft. pil. No. 120.

*Sig.* One night and morning

Each pill contains half-grain of the Hyd. Ferri, and one grain of the powdered Valerian. The dose may be gradually increased, so that at the end of three months, eight grains of the medicine may be taken daily. The longest term requiring the use of the drug was one year, but at the end of that time the paroxysms had disappeared entirely. Other cases yielded to four, six, and nine months' use.

Yours, &c.,

D. L. MCGUGIN.

## MECHANICAL SURGERY.

We deem it of importance to the practice of surgery, to science, art, and humanity, that the American invention, PALMER'S ARTIFICIAL LEG AND ARM, which so beautifully and usefully represent nature and restore the mutilated, should not be lost sight of, nor lightly considered by the profession or the community at large, in view of their immense advantage to a large and increasing number of those who suffer from extreme mutilation. In no instance hitherto, have true scientific attainments and mechanical skill been associated in this branch of surgical mechanism to such an extent as in the firm of Palmer & Co. Formerly, and even now in many parts of the country, no sooner had the mutilated passed out of the hands of the operative surgeon than he has had misfortune added to misfortune, in the work and burdensome appliance of some charlatan in art, to whom ignorance or a feeling of indigence may have consigned him for a substitute for the natural leg. Keenly must all such sufferers feel their loss, who are endowed with acute susceptibilities.

We rejoice in this inventive day; and this beautiful contrivance, which is so admirably designed to restore and console the mutilated, and which is placed, by the same humane spirit which inspired the invention, within the reach of the most indigent. We heartily subscribe to the utterance of two eminent English surgeons, "that

with such a limb to repair the loss, amputations will be much less dreaded, and that we are furnished with a valuable addition to our means of removing the inconvenience arising from a severe mutilation."

Every kind and condition of mutilated and shortened limb, either by amputation or disease of the hip and spine, are treated by Palmer & Co. in a manner peculiar to themselves, both highly useful and beautiful, so that the loss by amputation defies detection, and the shortened limb is elongated with a natural appearing and beautifully operating foot.

Among the great number of instances which have been committed to their treatment, many have had both legs amputated, both above and below the knees; and pairs of artificial legs, with artificial toe, ankle, and knee-joints, have been so skilfully made and adjusted as to enable the wearers to walk with very great ease and naturalness, and without the aid of any other support. Well may a medical journalist have exclaimed: "If such cases can be treated with success, then there can be no bounds to their operations in this branch of surgery." With the high appreciation and approbation of such English and French surgeons as Lawrence, Green, Guthrie, Ferguson, Brodie, Roux, and Lallemand; and American surgeons, as Mott, Parker, Carnochan, and a host of others, and who are sustained by the exhibitions of the world's two great Fairs, all the scientific institutes, and by the great army of their patients, of every age, sex, and occupation, the firm of Palmer & Co. may well be proud of its standing, and the public congratulate itself in possessing such philanthropic institutions as this firm have established in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, in the three great business marts of this country for the good of mankind.

### ANEROID BAROMETER.

*Manufactured by EDWIN KENDALL,*

GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS.

We have lately had the pleasure of examining and testing an instrument, styled the *Aneroid Barometer*, manufactured at the establishment of the gentleman above named. The name is significant of the formation of a vacuum without a fluid, as the form of this barometer is in contrast with the Torricellian tube, the common barometer, which requires mercury in the production of the vacuum. The principle on which this instrument operates seems to have been first noticed by M. Conté, a French professor, but was finally reduced by M. Vidi. The vacuum chamber is constructed of two round pieces of metal, two and a half inches in diameter, connected by soldering between them a ring of thin metal of a quarter of an inch in width, thus making an air-tight chamber or cylinder, two and a half inches in diameter and a quarter of an inch in thickness. From the chamber the air is exhausted by means of an air-pump. This vacuum chamber is attached by fastenings, the one side to a base plate, and the other side to a combination of levers and springs, giving motion to an index that passes over a graduated dial, in a manner to correspond to the movements of the mercury in a common barometer when both are equally exposed to atmospheric pressure. The greater or less pressure of the atmosphere on this vacuum chamber gives motion to the index to the higher or lower figures on the dial. The Aneroid is thus a scientific instrument, possessing all the necessary qualities to a good barometer, delicacy to impression and accuracy in noting, besides the great advantage of being portable, being all contained in a cylinder three inches in diameter by one and a half in height. Each instrument has accompanying a printed explanation and rules for observation. We have had one of these Aneroids hanging by the side of a mercurial, and have found it to note the atmospheric changes with equal accuracy.

RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL FACULTY.

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The attention of the Medical Profession and the public is invited to the following preparations:

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#### Tarrant's Cordial Elixir of Turkey Rhubarb,

Takes its place as the best remedy for Dyspepsia or Indigestion of the present day, and, for its efficacy and safety, deserves the name of being, in truth, a Family Medicine. Those who suffer from excessive fatigue, mental anxiety, or intellectual application of whatsoever kind, will find it to be a medicine of extreme value. It is particularly recommended to those suffering from Bilious and Nervous Headache, Diarrhea, Constipation, Flatulency, Indigestion, Summer Complaints, Cholera Morbus, etc., etc. The utmost reliance can be placed on it, both as to its innocent nature and highly curative qualities.

#### Tarrant's Improved Indelible Ink,

For marking Linen, Muslin, Silk, etc., has been proved, by many years' experience, to be the best, most permanent, and reliable preparation ever offered to the public. The superiority of this article is acknowledged by all; and purchasers and dealers will find it to their interest to give it a preference over all similar preparations.

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Sanctioned by popular opinion and high authority of the most distinguished of the medical faculty. It offers to the afflicted a remedy, whose success has in every instance supported its deserved reputation. Being convenient and agreeable in its use, experience has proved that it retains in every climate its desirable and truly valuable character. It is in the form of a paste, is tasteless, and does not impair the digestion. It is prepared, with the greatest possible care, upon well-tested principles. To persons following the sea, or going long voyages, this preparation possesses qualities far surpassing any other—neat and portable in form, speedy and efficacious in its operation, successful both in the earliest and worst stages of the severest disease, while the usual nauseous taste and unpleasant odor of Copaiba is wholly avoided in this preparation.

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AND

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**Cod Liver Oil Jelly.**

The invalid, if he follows my directions, can take it without perceiving the least taste of the Oil. I also particularly and respectfully call the attention of physicians to the *modus operandi* of this Jelly in the stomach. Instead of this feeling of nausea, more or less painful, which no patient escapes, this Jelly, taken almost without taste, is gradually dissolved in the stomach. The Oil, by its combination with the sugar, forms a beneficial emulsion, and being carried in this manner in an infinitesimal molecular division, every particle acts, and no loss of the remedy can happen.

**E. QUERU, Chemist,**

135 Fourth Avenue, N. Y., Inventor.


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